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Hafa Adai!

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75¢

Another drowning at Lau Lau Bay

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A 53-year-old Japanese male reportedly drowned while diving yesterday morning at Lau Lau Bay, where a tourist also drowned last month.

The victim, identified by the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services as Hirofumi Suzuki, was brought to the Commonwealth Health Center, where a physician pronounced him dead at 11:03am, according to Department of Public Safety spokesman Jacqueline Rae Shepard.

It was a G4S security guard who called DPS dispatch at

See ANOTHER on Page 4

Kilili to USCIS: Delay CW rejections

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) asked U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services—for the third time—to put off denying CW petitions, as was done in the previous fiscal year.

In an April 12, 2018, letter to Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen M. Nielsen, Sablan requested that USCIS delay denying CW permit applications not included in the USCIS lottery.

The CW permit cap for fiscal year 2019

See KILILI on Page 4



'It is business as usual for Managaha'

Since 1989, Tasi Tours has been managing and operating on the iconic Managaha Island. BEA CABRERA

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Thus assured Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion yesterday in the wake of a Department of Public Lands' announcement last week that it is seeking bids for the Managaha concession.

Concepcion said the DPL announcement of solicitations for proposals to handle the Managaha Island Master Concession Operator hasn't stopped the influx of tourists that visit Managaha daily.

"It is business as usual in Managaha," he said, which means the tours and various

See MANAGAHA on Page 4

OES raises over $10K for Red Cross

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Oleai Elementary School raised over $10,000 through pledges for the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter during the 32nd Annual Walkathon last Saturday.

That makes it the sixth consecutive year that OES has been recognized as the school with the highest amount of pledges raised.

According to OES coordinator Rocelle Carreon, the school continues to strive and raise funds not to win, but to show their support for the

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LOCAL
Northern Marianas College teachers, students, and staff are given accolades.

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ASIA
President Donald Trump will play host to Japan's Shinzo Abe at Mar-a-Lago.

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LIFE & STYLE
Pulitzer judges awarded the music prize to Kendrick Lamar for his rap album "DAMN."

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Local

'Working relationship with feds is most critical issue for NMI'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former governor Juan N. Babauta, who is running again for the post this November, believes that the most critical issue the CNMI is facing today is to keep a good working relationship with the federal government.

Babauta said that, if elected, he would push for the continuing CW workforce in the CNMI to keep the economy going and working with the federal government as a partner.

"Our partnership with the federal government is very critical and sometimes we tend to neglect that," said Babauta.

He is running for governor with former education commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan as his running mate. They're running as independent candidates.

The former governor said he wants to avoid a problem where the U.S. Congress is going one way and the administration is going the other.

Babauta underscored the importance of having to work with the federal government constantly, every step of the way.

"This is the only way we can prevent this issue of the lottery now that has come up," said Babauta referring to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' decision to use a lottery system for the approval of the 4,999 CW petitions.

"They think it's something that is fair. Well, it is unfair!" Babauta pointed out. "When you draw a lottery from 12,000 workers to make up to decide for 4,999 workers, you're drawing CW workers from my pool of 12,000 that may not fit the critical categories of jobs that are essential here."

Babauta said there should be a fairer way of selecting workers for the CNMI. He said the lottery system dilutes the criticalness of the workers that the CNMI needs.

"I've always viewed the most critical issue that we face today is to keep a good working relationship with our most important partner and that is the federal government," he added.

Succeed

Babauta also assured that he wants to see the Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC succeed with its casino resort project on Saipan. "We have a contract with them through an enacted legislation. I would like to see that we implement the agreement."

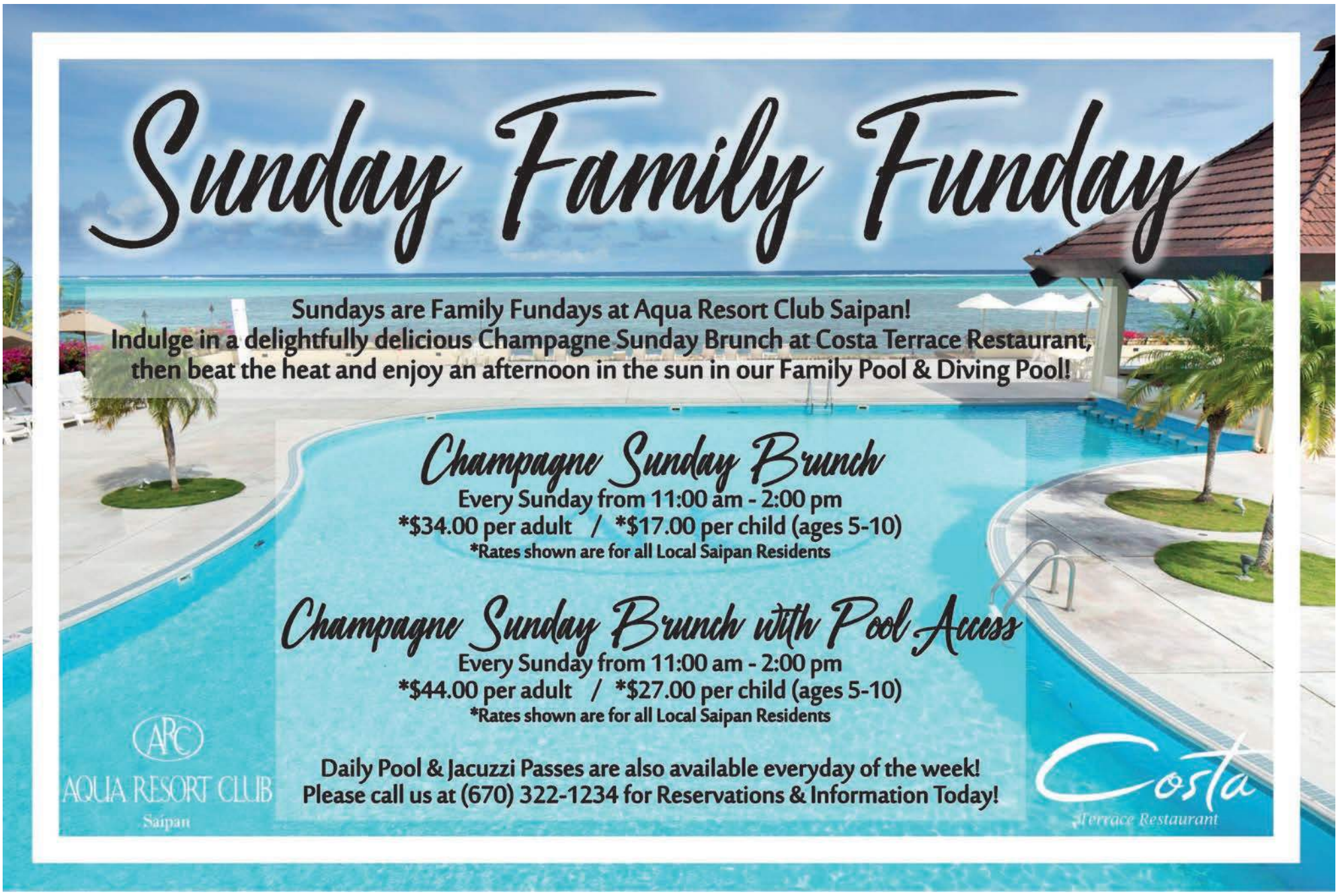
The former governor said he recognizes the contributions that Imperial Pacific is making to the community.

"We can harness that energy to make this partnership with them successful," he said, adding that the only way that it can be done is to work together.

Babauta also underscored the importance of adhering to every law and regulation, whether local or federal, to accomplish the mission that is in the contract in order for the casino industry to be successful.

"I understand that there may be some financial issues going on but that something that we can work together," he said.

Babauta said he is disposed to giving a helping hand to Imperial Pacific to make their casino industry succeed in the CNMI.



Ex-firefighter Benavente wants a new sentence

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A former firefighter whose sentence of 30 years in prison for sexual exploitation of a child was affirmed by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit now wants the U.S. District Court for the NMI to review the pleadings in his case and give him a new sentence.

Richard Sullivan Benavente, who is in prison in New York, filed a motion *pro se* or without a lawyer before the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Benavente asked the court to remove the enhancement of the sentence, give him credit, and resentence him.

The former firefighter said that, in enhancing his sentence for obstruction of justice, the District Court highlighted two bases—his false statements to the Federal Bureau of Investigation on April 25, 2014, and his breach of the plea agreement.

Benavente said his alleged lies in the Raymond Roberto case did not hinder or impede the U.S. government's investigation or prosecution of the underlying offense for which he was charged.

This nullifies the two-point enhancement for his sentence for obstruction of justice, he said.

He said it denied him the right to a reduction in sentence.

In October 2017, the Ninth Circuit affirmed the District Court's imposition of a 30-year prison sentence on Benavente. The Ninth Circuit judges ruled that Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona did not abuse her discretion in imposing a two-level sentencing enhancement on Benavente.

Manglona concluded that Benavente obstructed justice by lying to the U.S. government and violating his plea agreement by testifying falsely at Roberto's trial.

Manglona sentenced Benavente in 2016 to the statutory maximum after explaining that the defendant repeatedly enticed or coerced at least two minor girls into sex in exchange for drugs, and had violated his plea agreement.

In October 2015, Manglona determined that Benavente lied in his testimony at the trial of Roberto, who was then charged with coercion and enticement of the same minors that Benavente sexually exploited.

The judge said that by lying at the Roberto trial, the former firefighter breached his plea agreement with the U.S. government.

Roberto was acquitted.

In 2013, a federal grand jury indicted Benavente on several counts of sexual exploitation of a child. He entered into a plea agreement.

In 2014, Benavente pleaded guilty to a count of sexual exploitation of a child.

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IN RFP FOR CHCC MEDICAL MALPRACTICE INSURANCE

No one submitted proposals

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. sent out feelers for medical malpractice insurance for its physicians but got no biters, according to the Office of the Attorney General yesterday.

OAG Civil Division chief Christopher Timmons, counsel for CHCC and the CNMI government, said that CHCC published the request for proposals for medical malpractice insurance coverage for a month in both newspapers, yet got no response.

He pointed out that CHCC has previously sought quotations from all licensed insurers in the CNMI and has publicly sought competitive proposals for medical malpractice coverage, to no avail. That means CHCC has satisfied its obligations to investigate the availability and cost of medical malpractice insurance policies for its medical professionals.

Timmons said CHCC will take no further steps.

CHCC published the RFP in compliance with Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho's order requiring the CNMI government to seek information as to the availability of professional liability insurance coverage for Commonwealth Health Center's healthcare professional staff.

In the same order dated Aug. 28, 2017, Camacho stayed the medical malpractice lawsuit filed by Remedio Elameto and her common-law husband, Pedro Pua.

Elameto and Pua have filed a medical malpractice lawsuit against the CNMI government and former CHC doctors Gary Ramsey and Rajee Iver.

In the government's report to Superior Court yesterday, Timmons said the RFP was broadly drafted to solicit multiple proposals for coverage.

Timmons said the RFP, which was closed last April 2, was published in the two newspapers on March 2, 9, 14, and 19.

He said the RFP was not published outside of the CNMI because, pursuant to statute, no person may act as an insurer and no insurer may transact insurance in the CNMI other than as authorized by a certificate of authority granted to it by the insurance commissioner.

Last October, Timmons also told the court that CHCC has inquired from all insurers licensed to sell insurance products in the CNMI whether they provide or willing to provide coverage for CHC doctors, but none had an affirmative response.

Claire Kelleher-Smith, counsel for Elameto and Pua, earlier said that this "very important problem"—the lack of medical malpractice insurance covering doctors practicing at CHC—has been plaguing the CNMI for years.

The other problem, Kelleher-Smith said, is the government's reliance on the Government Liability Act, rather than obtaining medical malpractice insurance.

"This problem has been preventing victims of medical malpractice at CHC from obtaining meaningful recovery. That is the real problem," she said.

In his order last Aug. 11 in connection with the couple's lawsuit, Camacho invalidated the substitution provisions of the Government Liability Act.

Camacho ruled that the Government Liability Act's damages cap, substitution provision, prohibition on punitive damages, and restriction on the availability of jury trials fail constitutional examination.

The ruling has prompted the OAG and Ramsey to file a joint request for the court's immediate issuance of an order staying the case pending their appeal to the CNMI Supreme Court.

CHCC chief executive officer Esther L. Muna had earlier stated that medical malpractice insurance is not available in the Commonwealth, because the size of the medical community in the CNMI is too small to create a sufficient risk pool.

CHC is the only hospital and surgical facility on Saipan.

Elameto and Pua are suing the CNMI government and Iyer and Ramsey for medical malpractice, bad faith, and emotional distress and loss of consortium.

Elameto claimed that a surgical team at CHC left a 15-centimeter-long surgical clamp in her abdomen during a surgery to address her irregular periods and ovarian cysts at CHC on Saipan in August 2000.

It was in June 2014 or almost 14 years later when the surgical clamp was discovered and removed at Guam Memorial Hospital.

ANOTHER

From Page 1

10:24am about a possible drowning incident at a Lau Lau Bay dive spot.

Shepard said that when DPS Boating Safety police officers arrived at the beach at 10:31am they came upon two people trying to revive the unconscious victim, who was lying on the sand.

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services rescue units arrived shortly after and continued administering cardiopulmonary resuscitation on the victim until an ambulance came at 10:41am.

Shepard said witnesses at the scene told police that the victim had entered the waters on a scheduled dive. While descending, the victim panicked and removed his breathing regulator, causing him to breath in water.

The diving instructor immediately pulled the victim from the water. With the assistance of another diving instructor, the first instructor began applying CPR.

"Their attempts to revive the victim were unsuccessful," Shepard said.

Last March 9, Tian Tao, a 32-year-old Chinese male tourist, drowned while swimming at Lau Lau Bay.

Last Feb. 23, a 25-year-old Korean male tourist who was swimming with three companions was swept away by a wave at Forbidden Island in Kagman. A search and rescue team backed up by a Navy helicopter failed to locate the body.

Last Jan. 13, a Korean tourist drowned while her husband was swept away by waves and could not be found at Forbidden Island.

OES

From Page 1

American Red Cross.

"It's really not about winning. It's really about being here and supporting the cause…it's not about the intent to win, it's about the teamwork," she said.

Carreon said the pledge-raising also doubles as lesson for her students, teaching them to be selfless and to think beyond themselves.

"I'm trying to instill in my students that they can't just think about themselves, they can't think selfish[ly]. They have to go out to the community and see that there are bigger things out there than themselves. … The kids see that and it makes them excited every year," she said.

When asked what drives OES to continue to raise as much funds as they can during the Walkathon pledge season, Carreon said its both passion and spirit.

"It really is about passion… it's that mindset of looking beyond just themselves and about coming together and showing their school spirit, their school pride…" she said.

Although OES is proud about their accomplishments and wants to continue to raise the most among all the other public schools, Carreon said she is still proud of the other schools that continue to support the cause.

"I am proud of the entire PSS family…we're here because we believe in it regardless if you volunteered or not," she said. "I know for a fact that if there was a disaster…I know that we can't be there but a volunteer will be and I know that our charity, our support will help the people because its teamwork."

Carreon said that OES would not be able to hold on to the title they have been holding on to for years if it wasn't for the help of the students, the parents, and especially the generous community.

"We have amazing students in our school, we have amazing parents that support and we also have a generous community as well," she said.

OES raised over $10,000, but the exact amount raised has yet to be tabulated. The school raised about $13,000 last year.

MANAGAHA

From Page 1

water sports activities on the island are still ongoing.

The master concession for Managaha is currently being handled by Tasi Tours.

Concepcion did not comment on DPL's RFP for a master concession on the island and left the issue to DPL's jurisdiction.

Since 1989, Tasi Tours has been managing and operating the concession on Managaha Island. That agreement expired in August 2016 and TASI tours has been paying DPL a monthly fee since then.

Saipan Tribune sought comments from Tasi Tours president Masato Tezuka, but he declined to give a statement

In an earlier interview, Tezuka said that Managaha Island is the jewel of Saipan.

"It is very important to both residents and tourists and is one of the very well-protected places on Saipan. We would like to keep it that way—preserve its natural beauty and maintain and sustain it for residents and tourists," Tezuka added.

Based on *Saipan Tribune* archives from June last year, DPL Secretary Marianne Teregeyo differentiated a contract of concession from a contract of lease over Managaha Island.

She explained that a lease requires issuing a request for proposal, or RFP. It entitles the lessee to have total authority over the property, including selecting those who have access to the property, setting the times the property may be entered, and even deciding whether the property is open to the public or not.

A concession agreement, on the other hand, allows the company to operate specific businesses within the lot. Concession agreements are open to the public as the lot is still under the jurisdiction of DPL.

Teregeyo further said that in the event DPL chooses to issue an RFP they will be advertising it.

"We are coming up with an analysis of the previous agreements and how we can change that to better benefit [the CNMI]…If not, we would be notifying the people of DPL's decision," she added.

Last week, an RFP notice and advertisement came out soliciting proposals from qualified firms interested in taking up the exclusive master concession operator for service and activities on or relating to Managaha Island.

KILILI

From Page 1

is set at 4,999.

Sablan previously sent two prior letters to Nielsen dated Jan. 9, 2018 and Feb. 26, 2018, essentially requesting USCIS to "rack" permits instead of outright rejecting them. In this case, racking permits means USCIS would set aside permits not included in the lottery while retaining their chronological order, allowing the first permit submitted to first be processed if there is any change in the law.

In a previous communication with *Saipan Tribune,* USCIS said it would automatically reject petitions not submitted within the April 2, 2018, to April 13, 2018 window. They added that only petitions received within that time would be used for the lottery.

Sablan, in his letter, asked Nielsen to reconsider delaying the rejection of petitions to a later date.

"In light of this rapid progress and the high degree of bipartisan agreement and collaboration with the [U.S.] Executive Branch that is reflected in the U.S. Workforce Act [S.2325] I ask, once more, that you delay rejecting CW applications in excess of the number needed to fill the 4,999 permits now available for fiscal year 2019," said Sablan, citing the current progress of U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowsk's (R-AK) S. 2325.

S. 2325 is a bill that seeks to reset the CW cap for fiscal year 2019 to 13,000; provide additional validity to long-time CW workers; and extend the CNMI transitional period, along with programs under it such as the CW program and the E-2C investor program, to fiscal year 2029.

Sablan simultaneously introduced H.R. 4869 to the U.S. House on Jan. 19, 2018.

"Many of the recommendations offered by your staff, including the anti-fraud fee and an e-verify requirement were incorporated into the amendment in the nature of a substitute [to S.2325] approved by the [U.S.] Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources at a mark-up on March 8, 2018. The bill is now on track for consideration by the full Senate," pointed out Sablan.

He added that in fiscal year 2018, USCIS was able to delay actions due to "uncertainty regarding the cap."

Sablan noted that on May 25, USCIS announced that they have received enough applications to fill the maximum possible number of CW permits seven months prior to announcing the cap on Nov. 22, 2018.

"…And only then were applications rejected for the period prior to May 25," said Sablan. "That would be the wise course of action now, too. Please, allow time for [U.S.] Congress to complete its work on the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act before engaging in wholesale rejection of permit applications," added Sablan.

Nielsen's response

Nielsen, in response to Sablan's Jan. 9, 2018, letter, said that USCIS already takes rejections in consideration when determining the amount of CW applications received before finally announcing that they have enough petitions.

"In determining how many CW petitions to accept for filing under the numerical cap, USCIS already makes allowance for the fact that some filed petitions will be denied and some approved petitions will not be used. In this regard, revoked and denied permits were already take into account," she wrote Sablan.

Nielsen has yet to respond to Sablan's other letters.

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Saipan Cares continues adoption outreach

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Cares for Animals continues to reach out to the community in hopes to give the animals under their care "forever homes." In its latest effort to promote pet adoption, Saipan Cares for Animals set up an adoption booth at the 32nd American Red Cross Walkathon of the American Red Cross NMI Chapter. It was Saipan Cares for Animals' first time to participate in the walkathon. The Red Cross invited the group to set up a booth.

Although Saipan Cares for Animals was not able to get the animals adopted at the walkathon, volunteers were able to hand out business cards to many community members as well as have the animals interact with the community.

According to Saipan Cares for Animals volunteer Kim Cody, the walkathon is only one of the other places they hold adoption outreaches. Aside from the walkathon, Saipan Cares for Animals also sets up an adoption booth at the Joeten Superstore every Saturday.

It is through outreaches like the walkathon that the animals under the custody of Saipan Cares for Animals are showcased and a huge amount of community members are able to interact with the animals, Cody said.

The process of adopting a dog or cat with Saipan Cares for Animals is not a long one. After the completion of an adoption form along with a $30 to $75 adoption fee (which includes vaccinations, de-worming, and spay/neutering), the family can immediately take home the dog or cat.

There are currently over 15 dogs and about 20 cats of all breeds and ages at the Saipan Cares for Animals shelter.

Cody is urging the community to check out the animals under Saipan Cares for Animals' custody because they are sweet and loving animals that are in need of a family.

Cody said the dogs and cats under their custody are friendly and have received one-on-one time with volunteers to ensure that they are safe around families and children.

For those interested in adopting a cat or dog with the Saipan Cares for Animals, contact the shelter at 285-5448 or visit them every Saturday at the Joeten Superstore to meet a few of the animals.



MANHOBEN FOR TORRES CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Young leaders express support for the gubernatorial bid of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) and the entire Republican Party slate in an introductory meeting Monday night at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.

DYS holds roadside waving vs child abuse

The Division of Youth Services held a roadside waving last Friday to spread knowledge about the importance of preventing child abuse.

Dozens of individuals joined the Division of Youth Services at the San Jose intersection near Atkins-Kroll to help spread awareness and let the community know that child abuse won't be tolerated.

According to DYS caseworker Mel Sablan, the roadside waving is in celebration of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month.

DYS believes that awareness can result in prevention. Over the years, DYS has observed that by spreading awareness, the number of child abuse cases they have been receiving are, slowly but surely, decreasing.

"The counts are going down and we're hoping that it stays there unlike before when the numbers were too high… I believe people are starting to learn more of how to disciple children instead of abusing them," said Sablan.

The community can expect various community events this week in celebration of Child Abuse Prevention Month like the SAFE Jamboree in conjunction with the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Abuse, which is also celebrating Sexual Assault Awareness Month. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***



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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: CPA-RFP-005-18

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The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is seeking proposals from experienced and qualified Parties (hereinafter "Proposers") to design, configure, install, and maintain wireless internet service ("WIFI service") at CPA facilities on Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

Proposal packages can be obtained beginning **April 02, 2018, at 8:00 AM** at the CPA Administration Office, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport at a fee of $50.00 per package. A mandatory pre-proposal meeting shall be held on **April 09, 2018 at 10:00 AM** at the CPA Conference Room, 2nd Floor of the Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport. Proposers who are not familiar with the Saipan International Airport shall be afforded a site visit immediately after the pre-proposal meeting. Subsequent site inspections on Rota and Tinian will be determined during the preproposal meeting. Proposers shall be responsible for arrangements and all associated cost for the subsequent site inspections on Tinian and Rota.

Proposers must submit one original and three copies of their written proposal in sealed envelopes addressed to the Executive Director, Re: "WIFI Service at CPA Facilities on Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Project No. CPA-RFP-005-18," P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, which shall be received by the CPA Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport by or before **4:30 p.m., April 20, 2018**, Written proposals delivered after said time and date will not be accepted.

The proposal will be evaluated by an evaluation committee. Proposals shall be restricted to the members of the evaluation committee until after the completion of the evaluation and ranking of proposals. Following completion of the evaluation and establishment of the preference ranking based on the evaluation criteria, award shall be made to the responsible proposer whose proposal is determined in writing to be most advantageous to CPA taking into consideration price and the evaluation factors set forth in the RFP and applied in the evaluation plan. Proposals may be prepared and opened for public inspection after award.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or to cancel this request for proposal in accordance with CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations, to lengthen the proposal period, and to waive minor irregularities in proposals. Discussion may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to insure full understanding of, and responsiveness to, solicitation requirements. However, proposals may also be evaluated solely on the submitted written proposal without follow up or further discussion. All Proposers must agree to the terms and conditions set forth in the Request for Proposal and proposal package.

Nothing herein constitutes or implies a contract to enter into, accept or agree to any terms, conditions or rates, or to allow or promote any activity and in no way encumbers or obligates the CPA to enter into a contract of any kind with any Proposer.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Deadline extended for 2018 LibDay Queen candidates



2017 Liberation Day Queen Peyton Gomez CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Young ladies interested in being a part of the 2018 Liberation Day Royal Court have a few extra days to submit their applications.

The 2018 Liberation Day Committee has extended the deadline for 2018 Liberation Day Royal Court to April 23.

"We are encouraging all eligible applicants who are looking to be actively involved in the community to apply for this year's 2018 CNMI Liberation Day Royal Court," said Royal Court Committee chair Monique Sablan.

Applications are now available at the Saipan Mayor's Office website at www.saipanmayor.net under "Liberation Day Festivities" tab. If you are having trouble submitting your application, email nmiliberation@gmail.com. All applications can be turned into the Saipan Mayor's Office or via email.

Young females from the ages of 14 to 22 years old are encouraged to join.

"Being a part of the 2017 Liberation Day Royal Court journey is something that I will always remember and cherish. It provided me a chance to celebrate our culture and give back to our community. The experience was very rewarding and I am grateful to have had this opportunity," said 2017 Liberation Day Queen Peyton Gomez. "I will be playing an active role this year with the planning of 2018 Liberation Day Royal Court and we have a lot of activities in store. I hope to see this year's new candidates having the same drive and excitement that I had when I was running last year. I highly recommend all young ladies to take part of this great opportunity."

The 2018 Liberation Day Royal Court contestant criteria is 14-22 years old female, not married, no children, a CNMI resident for at least six months, good academic standing, and of good moral and ethical character.

Each candidate will have the ability to sell Liberation Day raffle tickets to raise funds and host other approved fundraisers. Twenty percent of each of the candidates' total fundraising proceeds will go to the candidate.

The 2018 Liberation Day Committee is preparing the official raffle tickets with a $10,000 grand prize and other smaller prizes that will be released by the third week of April, along with the deadline for contestants to sign up for the 2018 Liberation Day Royal Court competition. The Liberation Day Royal Court titleholders are determined by the amount of money each candidate raises through the sale of raffle tickets.

For more information or contestant application forms, email nmiliberation@gmail.com, visit www.saipanmayor.net or the 2018 Liberation Day Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CNMILiberationDay.

This year's Liberation Day theme is "Sea to Shining Sea," celebrating the International Year of the Coral Reef and the islands' oceanic heritage and cultures. ***(PR)***



McDonald's Saipan owner/operator Marcia Ayuyu, third from left, presents a $6,000 check to the 2018 Liberation Day Committee to become the first title sponsor of this year's festivities. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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NMC recognizes its own during Charter Day

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The hard work of Northern Marianas College teachers, students, and staff did not go unnoticed and were given accolades during the annual Charter Day celebration last Friday.

Every year, a selected teacher, student, club, and staff member of NMC is recognized during the annual Charter Day celebration for the efforts they put into their work throughout the year.

Awards are given under the categories: Student of the Year, Staff of the Year, Non-Instructional Faculty of the Year, Faculty of the Year, Supervisor of the Year, and Student Organization of the Year.

The Student of the Year award was awarded to Dawn Sablan, who is majoring in Rehabilitation and Human Services and will be graduating in May 2018.

Sablan demonstrated excellence by volunteering and making a difference through her involvement in various community events. She has a passion for helping, especially individuals with disabilities.



The Student Organization of the Year award was given to the NMC Nursing Club.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO


Amanda Angel-Diaz


Dawn Sablan


Manny Castro


Shirley Blas


Sollyann Takai Nakamura

The Staff of the Year award was given to Shirley Blas because of her involvement in numerous on- and off-campus activities, and is also an active member of the staff senate. Blas' knowledge and experience makes her a great resource for everyone at NMC.

This year's Non-Instructional Faculty of the Year was Sollyann Takai Nakamura for her desire to learn new technologies and develop teaching methods for both youth and adults.

The Faculty of the Year award was given to Amanda Angel-Diaz for instilling professionalism and preparing her students to be the best possible educators they can be when leaving her courses.

NMC's Supervisor of the Year was Manny Castro for his eight years of service with NMC and for his drive to continue to remain proactive in solving complex problems.

The Student Organization of the Year award was given to the NMC Nursing Club. This category was created just this year to recognize the student organization's achievements, contribution, and community involvement.

All winners received recognition plaques, a designated parking spot for an entire year, multiple gift certificates, and a cash prize.

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We are looking for 10 CNMI-based college students, or college bound high school graduates with an interest in learning more about coral reef resource management. Our summer interns work 20 hours a week between June and August (dates to be determined) and are paid $8.00 per hour. This summer's internship opportunities include:

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- Community Education and Outreach
- Enforcement
- Shoreline Monitoring
- Marine Monitoring

To be considered, please submit the following documents by May 1, 2018 to the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality office or by email to outreach@dcrm.gov.mp.

- CNMI Employment Application- can be found at: http://cnmiopm.net/resources/files/Employee%20Application.pdf
- Cover Letter
- Resume/Curriculum Vitae
- Transcripts (unofficial transcripts are ACCEPTABLE)
- Two Letters of Recommendation (instructors and/or employees only)
- Police Clearance (within last 3 months)
- Copy of Valid Photo ID (driver's license, passport, etc.)

If you have any questions or concerns about this application, please email Jihan Younis at jyounis@dcrm.gov.mp or call the Bureau of Enviornmental and Coastal Quality at 664-8500/1.

Coral Reef Initiative Northern Mariana Islands · NOAA CORAL REEF CONSERVATION PROGRAM · BECQ CNMI · COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT



SAIPAN HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Office of the Mayor
Municipality of Saipan

NOTICE OF REGULAR SHEFA BOARD MEETING

In accordance with 1 CMC § 9901 *et seq.*, as amended, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance April 19th at 9:30 am at the Mayor of Saipan Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Ladera Center Building, Beach Road, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
1. Roll Call
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Adoption of Minutes from March 22nd, 2018

II. Public Comments

III. Reports
1. Administrator
2. Chair
3. Committees
   a. Committee on Awards
   b. Committee on Appeal/ Deferments/Forbearance
   c. Committee on Policy and Procedures
   d. Committee on Program and Development
   e. Committee of Fiscal, Legislative and Community Affairs

IV. Old Business
1. NMTI Request for Reconsideration (Open Enrollment)

V. New Business
1. Spring 2018 Application Status

VI. Executive Session – Appeals (closed)

VII. Misc.

VIII. Next Meeting

IX. Adjournment

Note: Meeting may continue the following day should the need arise.

TOYOTA

URGENT SAFETY RECALL REPAIR

TAKATA AIRBAG INFLATOR DEFECT



Defects in the over-pressurization of the Takata inflator, can cause the inflator to rupture and eject metal fragments when the airbag deploys. This could injure or cause the death of the vehicle's occupants.

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TOYOTA	2003-2012	MATRIX	PASSENGER SIDE AIRBAG
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TOYOTA	2004-2005	RAV 4	DRIVER SIDE AIRBAG

MAKE	MODEL		CAMPAIGN
TOYOTA	2003-2006	SEQUOIA	PASSENGER SIDE AIRBAG
TOYOTA	2007-2012	YARIS	PASSENGER SIDE AIRBAG
TOYOTA	2009-2013	4RUNNER	PASSENGER SIDE AIRBAG
TOYOTA	2009-2013	SIENNA	PASSENGER SIDE AIRBAG

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To find out if your vehicle is affected by this recall, log on www.toyota.com/recall.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

The EPA has forgotten its one job: protecting the environment

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's job is so straightforward, it is embedded in its name.

"Our mission is to protect human health and the environment," the agency's website confirms, just in case there was any doubt.

Yet in recent months, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt has set the agency on a path that strays far from this fundamental ethos.

Through his actions, Pruitt has made it clear he is prioritizing the industries he is supposed to regulate above the environment he is entrusted to defend.

Since taking office last year, Pruitt has halted work on guidelines to limit oil and gas facilities' emissions of methane and other pollutants. He has proposed repealing a plan adopted by President Barack Obama to move toward cleaner methods of generating electricity. He has taken aim at regulations designed to protect wetlands and streams.

And, all the while, he has boasted about these efforts, recently celebrating his rollback of 22 environmental rules, along with his work to start eroding more than 40 others.

Earlier this month, Pruitt announced plans to revoke requirements for cars and trucks to become more fuel efficient by 2025.

Dismantling this agreement is a boon for auto manufacturers, but not for the planet, which is straining under global temperature increases linked to greenhouse-gas emissions.

While Washington is one of about a dozen states that follow emissions standards set by California, not the federal government, Pruitt and the EPA have indicated they may also challenge the waiver that allows California and other states to adopt separate rules.

In Washington, relaxing vehicle standards could have an outsized effect on the state's ability to meet its pollution reduction targets. The transportation sector accounts for about 43 percent of Washington's greenhouse-gas emissions _ a much larger share than the national average _ largely because the state's electric sector already leans heavily on clean hydropower.

The state has a vested interest in several other regulations Pruitt is targeting, too, including new safety rules for facilities that store hazardous chemicals. The updated rules, which Pruitt has delayed, were developed partly in response to the Tesoro refinery explosion in Anacortes that killed seven people in 2010.

Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson has sued the EPA over the delay of those regulations and others. Ferguson similarly has joined other states in urging the agency to complete a scientific safety review of the pesticide chlorpyrifos, after Pruitt reversed course on the previous administration's plans to ban the chemical.

In Washington state, health-department investigators linked the pesticide to 16 cases of illness between 2012 and 2014 alone.

See EPA on Next Page

Former first lady Barbara Bush offers a parting gift

By JACQUIELYNN FLOYD
The Dallas Morning News



In the spirit with which we mark life's other landmark events, I would like to wish former first lady Barbara Bush a peaceful passing.

Mrs. Bush is nearing the end of her long and eventful life. It's reflective of her characteristic candor that this was made public Sunday, when her family announced that she will no longer accept medical treatment other than palliative care.

Death is natural, but the systemic breakdowns that often lead up to it can be wrenching: painful, exhausting, dependent. According to a family spokesman, Mrs. Bush has been less concerned for herself than for her family.

"Barbara Bush has been a rock in the face of her failing health, worrying not for herself—thanks to her abiding faith—but for others," said spokesman Jim McGrath.

That is grace. It's class.

The catchall category "political wife" is too dismissive for Mrs. Bush—really, it's too dismissive for anybody—but she was an undisputed personality in her own right. The directness that contributed to her public popularity was, by some accounts, sometimes blistering for those who felt its full force from up-close.

Her family calls her "The Enforcer," a term reportedly coined by her son, former president, and Dallas resident George W. Bush (yes, for present purposes, those are in descending order of importance).

"I'm in my thirties, but my grandmother's words and reprimands can still sting, making me tear up and sniffle like a child," wrote Jenna Pierce Bush, recounting an anecdote about Mrs. Bush sending her a tart note for showboating during a family tennis match. "That is my grandmother: exacting and determined to protect the ones she loves."

Now 92, Mrs. Bush came of age in an era during which women often were not permitted to speak their own minds, and certainly not in the—to mix a garish metaphor—hothouse fishbowl of American politics.

Maybe, after weathering a turn as first lady (possibly the worst, most thankless, most ill-paid and over-scrutinized quasi-job in government) the steady downward drift of failing health has been easy to weather, but I doubt it.

Rational science and human decency have done much to ease the end of life. Hospice programs provide a framework to ease pain and to help often bewildered families navigate the transition; enlightened doctors understand when the definition of "heroics" shifts from prolonging life to making the most of what remains.

Culturally, we haven't done as well. Death, the experience that every single one of us will share, remains a scary mystery. Families conceal its approach, as if it were a shameful secret. In our simple-minded obsession with "winning" and "strength," death equates with "losing," the ultimate weakness.

We would be happier people if we wised up.

"We've lost the rich wisdom of normal human dying," writes British palliative care specialist and author Dr. Kathryn Mannix. "It's time for us to talk about dying and reclaim this wisdom."

My sister-in-law lost her own cherished mother, who was in hospice care in Baton Rouge, on Sunday. It was a passing with grace and meaning, as a network of family and friends created a spontaneous support base.

"What an incredible gift the past 12 days have been," writes my sister-in-law, Carlen Pool Floyd, in a pitch-perfect tribute. "I am so proud to be from a place where both life and death are celebrated, where people open their hearts and homes to you, offering to wash your clothes, give you a place to sleep, or bring you something to eat ... My mom embodied the very best of these South Louisiana values."

Today, I read a lot of comments written in admiration of Mrs. Bush that include the caveat "even though I didn't agree with her husband/son's politics ... ".

Well, she didn't always agree with them, either. Let me offer my admiration without planting a political flag here—in no small measure because she frequently offered inspiring proof that successful marriages do not require political agreement.

In making that simple announcement that Mrs. Bush is ready to limit medical treatment to "comfort care," she and her family are offering a measure of comfort to all of us: This is life, too. This is acceptance.

It's just possible that Mrs. Bush, for all her directness (or maybe because of it) had a rare and uncanny ability to recognize what would matter most in that final stage long before she ever got there.

See BARBARA on Next Page

Apenas appottunidat

Kase siete años malofan mas ke 4,000 na tautau-ta madiñgu Marianas pot apenas (taya`) appottunidat cho`chu` guine. Este na sinisede ha kontinua-gue` esta pa`gu. I ginen Tinian man-hanau hulu` Saipan. Mañeluta ginen Luta man-hanau papa` Guam.

Oppan un` ratu na guaha adelantun ekonomia. Lau megai esta pa`gu man-tai che`chu`. Gi alacha man-huyuñg tautau-ta man-man dimanda cho`chu` pot mampos megai Chinu guine ni chumule` appottunidat niha man-ma-emplea.

Kulan inipus diskuidun man-ma`gas guine na patte. I kuestion: Kau i empleau depattamentun gobietnu ni debi u choneg direchun sudadanu man-inige ni tiempu? Haf` taimanu na man-halum un` manadan Chinu `nai megai gi tautau-ta mantai offisiu?

Tinayuyot: Gi inai Puntan Muchot huli`e gi chagu` un` figuran tautau ha fafana` bonitan minachum atdau. Sige halum i pueñge. Sumaga i prohimu estake homhum. Guminen I Tata antes de u hanau.

Hu komprende tinayuyot silensiu `nai mamaisa i tautau. Sahñge na eskalera `nai gaige attensioña. Mas klaru hinassoña sustansian hineñge gi Saina. Umasoda` yan Nanalibreta gi hilu` sinsiyu na konbetsasion.

Este na eskalera libianu un` soda` kau esta un` fondu añklan espirituat pat trabiha lumalailai gi supin tasi. `Nai un` yute, siempre u gaige galaide`mu ni kuantu na napun Agustu u fattu fitme gi sagaña. Estague` sustansian añklan espirituat.

By GREGORIO KILILI C. SABLAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan is the delegate of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Guaha difirensian tinayuyot otdinariu yan espirituat. I tatatte hagu yan i Saina umadiñgan sinsiyu gi asunto-mu siha. Tat ti basnag gi halum fina` homhum yan makat na asuntu siha. Lau ni unabes `nai ha abandona hit i Sainata. Gagau ayudu para siña un`li`e klaru asuntomu siha gi hilu` esperansa.

Dispues de todu `nai un` bira hau tatte gi regulat na petsona. Mas gai induthensia (minagof) hau guine na eskaleran tinayuyot.

Santa Biblia: Guaha `nai in`taitai i mas mauleg na lepblu mapublika gi enteru i tanu? Kase siñku biahe hu taitai i Santa Biblia kontodu inestudian biblical scholars (commentaries) haf` hinassun niha gi kada patte gi estorian tinagu` yan fina`pus i Sainata.

Kase dos `sino tres biahe mamensiona pot i sinantusan na nanata as Santa Maria. Los dimas, pot tinagu` Yuus Tata yan sakrifisiun Lahiña as Jesukristo. Ni unu yumeñgyuñg si Jesukristo haf` dichu finatoña pot para u komple tinagu` Yuus Tata.

Todu modun estoria yan ihemplo man-mamatuge` kontodu inadisgustu gi entalu` familia. Tat masusesede esta gaige gi biblia. I Santa Biblia ginen siñku na lepblu `nai matuge` gi unu haf` estorian i Sainata. `An mangai tiempu hamyu mauleg in` tutuhun tumaitai pot adelantun linala` espirituat para hagu yan famaguon-mu.

**Adios Nan Nena`:** Ha diñgu ham i matriakan familia as Nan Nena` Pablo (Igitol) gi mapos na semana. Esta hana` mesgu` lagohu i amku` `nai huhassu tatte i motmut pinasensiaña, hinimiddi, konkariñu, suanu yan ma`ug na akonsehu ginen i korasoña.

Guiya yan tiahu Marikita numa`eyu` esperansa yan manatma na sensia fumana` fitme karera-hu gi halum barañkan katsada.

Todu i tiempu gi finatog-hu siempre ilegña, "Enague` mage si Elias. Nayane lahihu kafe". Hu fatachuñge yan Tan Pablo mañgombetsasion layeye pot para bai huñgog finu` ansianu na amku`.

Ti apasiyun sensian pinasensia, man-ma`ug siha na akonsehu, yan konkariñu ginen matriakan mame. Si Yuus Maase` Nan Nena`. U fresku kareramu hulu` i lañget i Saina. Bien felis yan adios. I tinayuyot-hu. Si Juñan Denañg.

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Nunu: `Nai pumeska-yu` ayuyu un` tiempu, dumeskansan ñaihon-yu` gi papa` un` dañkulun troñku. Hu repara na papa` troñkun "nunu" `nai matachoñg-yu` de hemunos kau fafañague pat gai tautau. Dispues hu kontinua ume-ayuyu.

`Nai mattuyu` tatte gi gima`, hu hassu ayu na troñku pot magahet na figu` ya lamegai na pagyu yumilulog sin felis. Gaige ha` na man-babaila hagoña gi katkuet tiempu. Para i man-fuetsudu siha na mattirun pagyu tatnai nina` echuñg troñkoña.

Dispues ti mi-atburotu na troñku. Gigong ha tulusgue` hulu` sotta sa` siempre u tachu sakan pot sakan, tunas hulu`gi lañget. Haf` na tatnai ta hassu man-mama` simiya pot para ta tanum este na troñku gi kantun tasin san-me`na? Na ti mas figu` este ke troñkun gagu?

■■■

Pinegsai: Guaha pinegsai gi hiyuñg guma` kulan tane` mame yan asaguahu. Yan mame mañge` na katdun manog fresku mina` in` usune mamogsai. Tat mas ke este na katdu para alimientu. Esta hu fafahan gi un` cheluhu ni mipinegsai.

Mauleg na offisiu para `an kulan malago` hau katdun poya. Megai pinegsai mame antes gi hagas lanchu pot gai tiempu `an man-achaikag ham yan saki. Cha`mu hinahalañg konsige mamogsai. Siempre i saki manrepara ya ha chugua`gue`.

Trump must seek Congress' consent for US to go to war

Americans watched President Trump announce on TV this weekend that the United States was bombing Syria. Moreover, while he floated trial balloons—"Never said when an attack on Syria would take place. Could be very soon or not so soon at all!"—to test public sentiments about a possible bombing, the President never requested Congress for an Authorization for Use of Military Force in Syria, as required by the U.S. Constitution.

Why is this important?

First, because ours is a nation of laws; and even the President must follow the law.

Second, because a decision to engage in military conflict with another country puts the lives of the men and women of our military at risk. These men and women have sworn to uphold the Constitution and to follow the orders of their commander-in-chief. But, if the commander ignores Article I of the Constitution that gives Congress—and only Congress—the authority to go to war, then our men and women in uniform have been betrayed.

As the President risks the lives of our military attacking Syria, many members of Congress—the delegate from the Northern Marianas included—have called for him to articulate a comprehensive strategy and come to Congress for an Authorization for Use of Military Force.

Congress then has a solemn responsibility to debate an AUMF. If approved, the American people will know the decision has been made by their many representatives, not by one man. We will all clearly understand our nation's goals and objectives. And our men and women in uniform will have the confidence to fight with valor knowing they are engaged in lawful conflict.

EPA

From Page 10

Taxpayers are right to be outraged about recent reports of Pruitt spending millions of dollars on round-the-clock security, first-class flights and questionable office renovations.

But they should be equally upset about Pruitt's attempts to unravel the environmental protections that form the core of his agency's mission.

(c)2018 *The Seattle Times*

A hard lesson for a mom to learn: You can't fix everything

By KIM FLYR
THE BALTIMORE SUN

My two children and I were at Dunkin' Donuts, meeting my grandfather for a cup of coffee (for the adults) and a donut (for us all). My boys were 2 and 4 then, and it was an easy way (I thought) to connect with my grandfather.

When my 2-year old spun into a sugar-fueled meltdown in the middle of the store, I remember turning to my grandfather for support. I was surprised to find him laughing. When I tried to talk to him about how challenging I sometimes found life with two young boys, his reply was short: "Little kids, little problems," he said to me, "Keep it in perspective."

At the time, I remember bristling. The difficulties of raising my two boys didn't feel little. I sometimes felt overwhelmed by their energy and needs. That day in the donut store with a small boy screaming at my feet, I didn't want to hear that this was a little problem. Still, I knew how to fix it. I scooped up that boy and wrestled him into his car seat. I gave him his favorite blanket and put his CD on in the car. By the time we were half-way home, his eyes were heavy and the tantrum was over. I smiled at my older son in the rear-view mirror, and we moved on with our day.

"Fixing it" was what I thought good mothering was, back then. It seemed like my job—to fix their problems, to make them feel better. And, by and large, I could fix most things that upset them: the sugar meltdown, the conflict with a friend, the upset stomach, the everyday frustration. I smoothed, cajoled, disciplined, re-directed, kissed and loved their problems away.

Those boys are 24 and 22 now. And, as predicted, their problems are bigger than they were 20 years ago. And one thing I'm learning at this phase of parenting is how to be a mom who doesn't fix.

Not that I don't still try. Worried about my older son recently, I peppered him with questions and cautions. I went back to my old game plan. I wanted to fix, to comfort, to solve. Until he had enough, and he told me to stop—told me that I wasn't being helpful, told me that, on his birthday (yes, it was his birthday, and this didn't stop me), I needed to let him be. Ugh.

I reached out to him the next day to apologize. I had been out of line, having my own adult version of a meltdown because I was frustrated and afraid that I couldn't "fix" anymore. And we actually had a great talk. He explained to me that he wasn't broken, that he didn't need fixing, that he just needed love and support as he worked through his challenges—the same as anyone else.

And as I listened to my son I thought of my grandfather. How he must have known all those years ago that I would reach this moment, when I would look in the eyes of an adult child and know that my fixing days were short-lived and now over. Because their problems had grown larger and more complicated, as my grandfather foresaw, but also because of what my son was trying to explain to me: that fixing implies something is broken, when perhaps nothing is broken at all, just getting worked out.

Honestly, I miss the days when I felt so helpful and needed, when I could kiss it and fix it. But I also do love that I've raised an adult healthy enough to manage his own life and tell me (gently) when to back off.

And so, in a cosmic role reversal, it is my son who now talks me down, reassures me and then smiles at me from his rear-view mirror. It is both great and awful, this mothering phase of letting go. Maybe a favorite blanket would help soothe me as I watch my boys walk away. And fall. And get back up and keep on walking to wherever they are meant to go.

Kim Flyr is a therapist and yoga teacher; she wrote this for the Baltimore Sun.

BARBARA

From Page 10

"Cherish your human connections: your relationships with family and friends," she advised graduates when she delivered the commencement address to the Wellesley College class of 1990.

These were high-powered young women about to embark on meaningful careers, and Mrs. Bush congratulated them. And then she added:

"You've had impressed upon you the importance to your career of dedication and hard work. And, of course, that's true. But as important as your obligations as a doctor, a lawyer, a business leader will be, you are a human being first. And those human connections ... are the most important investments you will ever make.

"At the end of life, you will never regret not having passed one more test, winning one more verdict, or not closing one more deal. You will regret time not spent with a husband, a child, a friend, or a parent."

I suspect Mrs. Bush has little to regret, maybe because she has kept that essential truth close.

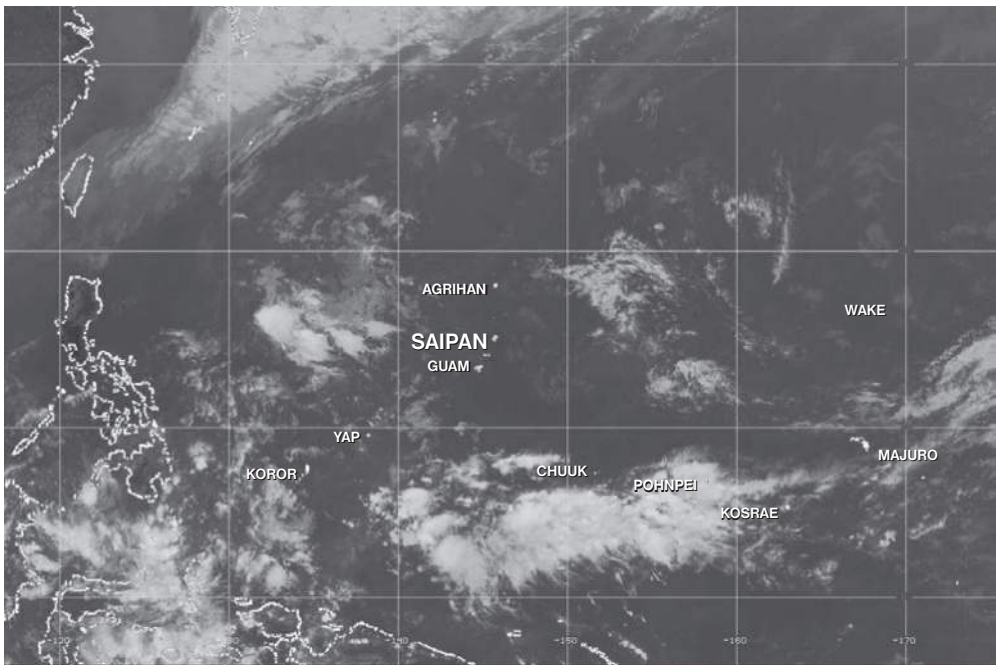
It's valuable how-to advice, a parting gift. We should take it to heart.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲86° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 11:25 AM, TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Clouds have decreased substantially with the departure of the disturbance, pretty much as forecast. Winds and seas are fairly steady through the period, so the main forecast problem is trying to time the next disturbance with its increase back to mostly cloudy skies. For now, put this into day 8 of the forecast, just past the end of the zone forecast product.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	87° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	85° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	85° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	66° / 57°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	82° / 55°
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	82° / 73°
Honolulu	Showers	80° / 72°
London	Mostly Sunny	70° / 54°
Los Angeles	Sunny	73° / 52°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	93° / 81°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	77° / 55°
Miami	Sunny	79° / 72°
New York	Partly Cloudy	58° / 45°
Osaka	Sunny	72° / 54°
Paris	Sunny	79° / 54°
Busan	Sunny	66° / 52°
Rome	Thunderstorm	73° / 55°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	83° / 62°
San Francisco	Rain	56° / 45°
Seoul	Sunny	64° / 45°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	70° / 55°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	64° / 53°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:14 AM	LOW TIDE	0.69
8:42 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.97
3:34 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.17
10:05 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.98

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:01 AM	6:31 PM
Thursday	6:00 AM	6:32 PM
Friday	6:00 AM	6:32 PM
Saturday	5:59 AM	6:32 PM
Sunday	5:58 AM	6:32 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	7:40 AM	8:39 PM	-
Thursday	8:31 AM	9:39 PM	-
Friday	9:26 AM	10:40 PM	-
Saturday	10:23 AM	11:40 PM	-
Sunday	11:23 AM	-	-

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SCS art show and writers showcase

The Saipan Community School invites the public to its SCS Annual Art Show and Young Writers Showcase on Friday, April 27, at 6pm in the SCS chapel.

Student pieces for display range in complexity from Kindergarten through 8th grade.

The SCS Young Writers Workshop will be displaying written work from Kindergarten all the way through the 8th grade.

To learn more about SCS, contact principal Amanda Allen Dunn, via email at principal@saipancommunityschool.com, call 234-6687, or visit the school on Beach Road in Susupe. ***(PR)***

OES registration information

The Oleai Elementary School will be accepting registration for new enrollees for school year 2018-2019, on the following dates:

- Kindergarten: April 16, 2018
- 1st to 5th Grade: June 11, 2018

Students entering Kindergarten must be 5 years old on or before Sept. 30.

Registration forms are available at our main office. Documents can be submitted to the office on Mondays-Fridays between 1pm and 4:30pm. For more information or inquiry call our main office at 664-3942. ***(PR)***

PTSA meeting for Kagman cluster schools

This is to inform all parents, guardians, and the community that the Kagman cluster of schools will be having a PTSA meeting on Thursday, April 19, 2018 at 5:30pm in the Kagman Elementary School cafeteria. Call the school at 237-3921, 664-4100, or 664-3911. ***(PR)***

Military training at former golf course, FDM

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at the former Adm. Nimitz Golf Course in Barrigada during the following dates and times:

- April 16 and 18 from noon to 6pm
- April 17 from noon to 8pm

The military will also conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla on April 19-20, from 11am to 11:55pm.

The public should be advised that routine helicopter training often accompanied with the use of blanks can occur throughout the week in areas of the former Nimitz golf course and Andersen south.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. ***(PR)***



NATIONAL prevention week 2018
ACTION TODAY. HEALTHIER TOMORROW.
MAY 13-19, 2018
CNMI NPW national prevention week

MAY 14 TINIAN — NPW ROADSIDE WAVING
MAY 15 TINIAN — NPW ISA FOAM RUN & NPW ART CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCEMENT
MAY 16 SAIPAN — NPW ROADSIDE WAVING
MAY 17 SAIPAN — NPW ART CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCEMENT
MAY 18 ROTA — NPW ROADSIDE WAVING
MAY 19 ROTA — NPW ISA HEALTH WALK & NPW ART CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCEMENT

Join the CHCC's Community Guidance Center in educating CNMI on healthy living and the power of PREVENTION to help prevent substance abuse and mental health disorders

SAIPAN, ROTA & TINIAN

ART CONTEST
(Grade School & Middle School Students)
• Due on May 4, 2018 at 4:00 PM
*Use 8.5" x 11" canvas
*Any Art Medium (No print, digital artwork, & photography)
* Prizes includes Art supplies, bragging rights and more!

CNMI NATIONAL PREVENTION WEEK
FOR MORE INFORMATION:

SAIPAN: Charnessa "Chenny" Lizama
npwcnmi@gmail.com
(670) 323-6560

TINIAN: Keith Nabors
tiniantyphoon@hotmail.com
(670) 433-6572

ROTA: Benedicta San Nicolas
benedicta.sannicolas@gmail.com
(670) 532-9461

CGC-Prevention Services Unit cgc_prevention cgc_prevention

This advertisement is made possible by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration with CHCC: Community Guidance Center - Substance Abuse Prevention Services Unit.

$18,950 in scholarships awarded to NMC students

Northern Marianas College announced Monday that eight deserving students have been awarded Asian and Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund scholarships totaling $18,950.

The APIASF - Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution Scholarship program is a collaboration with AANAPISIs and the communities they serve that provides scholarships, expands institution capacity and mobilizes local resources to help foster economic development, as explained in the organization's website.

"Thanks to the APIASF, many of our students are much closer to earning their college degrees," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "The scholarship funds go a long way to ensure that the recipients are provided with the resources they need to reach their educational goals."



Eight NMC students were recently awarded a total of $18,950 in scholarships from the Asian and Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund - Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution scholarship program. The presentation of scholarships was led by NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, front, center. Also in photo, from left to right, are NMC interim vice president Frankie Eliptico, director of financial aid Daisy Propst, financial aid specialist Roy Alegre, scholarship recipients Shanthia Espinosa, Michael Santos, Patrick Agustin, Victoria Matsunaga, Isaac Tenorio, and Marylyn Tabuena, NMC interim vice president Cynthia Deleon Guerrero, and interim dean Amanda Angel-Diaz.

NMC

The recipients for the scholarships are Agustin, Patrick; Laurio, Kristine Joy; Espinosa, Shanthia; Magofna, Adelpha Lynn; Matsunaga, Victoria Ann; Santos, Michael; Tabuena, Marylyn; and Tenorio, Isaac.

Seven out of the eight students received $2,500 and one received $1,450 that can be used for tuition, fees, housing, local transportation, books and allowable expenses for the spring 2018 semester.

"The entire college community joins me in congratulating these students on having been selected from a large pool of applicants," Fernandez said.

According to APIASF's website, applicants for the scholarship must be full-time students in a degree-seeking program and be of Asian and/or Pacific Islander ethnicity. Applicants must also be citizens, nationals, or legal permanent residents of the United States.

The organization's website also states that the Coca-Cola Foundation, Walt Disney Co., USA Funds, Walmart Foundation, and Wells Fargo support the APIASF AANAPISI Scholarship Program.

"Our vision is to see that all Asian-American and Pacific Islanders have access to higher education and resources that cultivate their academic, personal and professional success regardless of their ethnicity, national origin or financial means," APIASF's mission states.

Commerce strengthens relationships during busy Q1

The Department of Commerce recently completed a series of program outreach initiatives throughout the Commonwealth.

Commerce Secretary Mark O. Rabauliman highlighted the need to strengthen commercial capacity within Tinian and Rota.

"Our team met with Tinian Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas and Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig to discuss our existing programs and ways we could collaborate and leverage all available resources. We discussed the role of the Small Business Development Center, consumer assistance, alcohol and tobacco enforcement, banking and statistics. We continue to renew our commitment to improving commerce throughout the entire Commonwealth and look forward to the months ahead," Rabauliman.

Reiterating the significance of business development, Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres said that Commerce's resources serve to improve business development and improve upon the economic development strategy.

"When we take into account physical, natural, and human resources, each jurisdiction in the Commonwealth has its own developmental purpose and limitations. By speaking with our municipal and federal partners, we will better gauge opportunities, as well as threats and weaknesses to new industry developments, our infrastructure and the changing market. With this, Commerce is better aware of challenges and programs and can be more reflective to the needs of our islands," Torres said.

CNMI SBDC administrator Nicole Babauta noted that the outreach also served to close any informational gaps between the islands in terms of resources and programs.

"One of the primary focus of commerce is supporting the growth and development of our region. We discussed training opportunities for existing and prospective small businesses. Outreach remains critical in order to support growth and to build strong, effective, and functional partnerships within government and across the private sector. This is illustrated with us strengthening partnerships with the USDA," Babauta said.

She said that Commerce had met with U.S. Department of Agriculture-Farm Service Agency county executive director Thomas Camacho, USDA-FSA state executive director Hawaii State and Pacific Basin Al Frenzel, and USDA loan analyst Doreen Rivera to discuss programs in the CNMI.

Rabauliman further added that during the first quarter, the CNMI State Trade and Expansion Program Team met with Small Business Administration branch manager Kenneth Lujan and veteran business outreach center director Dennis Kwak to discuss best practices.

"Governor Torres has been a main proponent to training and the adoption of best practices in the region as an ongoing objective. Our team is very pleased with the insight and the partnerships we continue to build for the benefit of commerce and our entire community," Rabauliman said.

Free business training is available to the public and is supported by the CNMI Department of Commerce, CNMI SBDC, and USDA FSA. The next training on Tinian was held on Tuesday, May 8, 2018 and on Saipan on Wednesday, May 9, 2018. ***(PR)***



The CNMI Department of Commerce meets with Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig and Rota Commerce resident director Dean Manglona.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The CNMI Department of Commerce meets with Tinian Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas, chief of staff Allen Perez, and Commerce resident director Susan Perez.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The CNMI State Trade and Expansion Program Team meets with Small Business Administration branch manager Kenneth Lujan and veteran business outreach center director Dennis Kwak.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The CNMI Department of Commerce meets with U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency county executive director Thomas Camacho, USDA FSA state executive director Hawaii State and Pacific Basin Al Frenzel, and USDA loan analyst Doreen Rivera.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

Starbucks to train workers on 'unconscious bias,' CEO says

PHILADELPHIA (AP)— Starbucks wants to add training for store managers on "unconscious bias," CEO Kevin Johnson said Monday, as activists held more protests at a Philadelphia store where two black men were arrested after employees said they were trespassing.

Johnson, who has called the arrests "reprehensible," arrived in Philadelphia this weekend after video of the incident gained traction online. He said he hopes to meet with the two men in the next couple of days and apologize face to face. A company spokesman said the men have agreed to a meeting with Johnson, but it was not immediately known when it would take place.

"I'd like to have a dialogue with them and the opportunity to listen to them with compassion and empathy through the experience they went through," said Johnson, who has been CEO for about a year. Stewart Cohen, the lawyer for the two men, said he hopes "something productive for the community" can come out of such a meeting.

The incident is a major blow to Starbucks' image, since the company has promoted its coffee shops as neighborhood hangouts where anyone is welcome. After a video of the arrests spread online, the hashtag #BoycottStarbucks trended on Twitter.

And on Monday morning, about two dozen protesters took over the Philadelphia shop, chanting slogans like, "A whole lot of racism, a whole lot of crap, Starbucks coffee is anti-black." A Starbucks regional vice president who attempted to talk to the protesters was shouted down.

"We don't want this Starbucks to make any money today. That's our goal," said Abdul-Aliy Muhammad, one of the protest's organizers and co-founder of the Black and Brown Workers Collective.

Over the weekend, demonstrators called for the firing of the employee who contacted police, who arrested the men on Thursday. Starbucks did not respond to a request for comment about the employment status of the manager who called police.

Officials have said the officers were told the men had asked to use the store's restroom but were denied because they hadn't bought anything, and they refused to leave.

Video shows several police talking quietly with two black men seated at a table. After a few minutes, officers handcuff the men and lead them outside as other customers say they weren't doing anything wrong. A white man identified as real estate developer Andrew Yaffe arrives and tells the officers the two men were waiting for him. An officer says the men were not complying and were being arrested for trespassing.

"Why would they be asked to leave?" Yaffe says. "Does anybody else think this is ridiculous? It's absolute discrimination."

A woman can be heard in the video saying "they didn't do anything, I saw the entire thing."

Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney, who met with Johnson on Monday, said the city will review its guidelines on how to respond to future requests for police assistance.

Police haven't announced the names of the men, who were released after the district attorney's office said there was lack of evidence that a crime had been committed.

Asked if the incident was a case of racism, Johnson responded: "Starbucks was built around the concept of a third place where we create a warm and welcoming environment for all customers. What I do know is that did not happen in this instance. And that is what we're focused on."

US, UK say Russia targets internet hardware for espionage

By FRANK BAJAK
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

The U.S., Britain and Australia have accused the Russian government of maliciously targeting global internet equipment for political and economic espionage.

The governments said the Russian operations, which allegedly involve planting malware on internet routers and other equipment, could also lay the foundation for future offensive cyberattacks.

A joint statement Monday by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the FBI and the U.K.'s National Cyber Security Centre said the main targets include "government and private-sector organizations," as well as providers of "critical infrastructure" and internet service providers.

"Victims were identified through a coordinated series of actions between U.S. and international partners," according to a companion technical alert issued by the U.S. Computer Emergency Response Team (US-CERT). Both nations have "high confidence" in the finding of Russian-sponsored cyber-meddling, which the alert said has been reported by multiple sources since 2015.

Australia also admonished Russia and accused Kremlin-backed hackers of cyberattacks on hundreds of Australian companies last year.

Routers direct data traffic across the internet. US-CERT said the compromised routers can be exploited for "man-in-the-middle" spoofing attacks, in which communications are intercepted by a seemingly trusted device that has actually been infiltrated by an attacker.

"The current state of U.S. network devices—coupled with a Russian government campaign to exploit these devices—threatens the safety, security, and economic well-being of the United States," the alert stated. An email message seeking comment from the Russian embassy in Washington, D.C., received no response.

Trump says tax law, US economy helping Hispanics

HIALEAH, Fla. (AP)— President Donald Trump said Monday the Republican tax law and his push to slash regulations are driving one of the "greatest booms" to the U.S. economy and helping Hispanic workers.

Trump praised the strength of the economy at a business round-table in a predominantly Latino Miami suburb, telling the audience the country is "starting to really rock" with businesses coming back to the country and corporations facing fewer regulations.

Trump was joined by local business owners in the Miami area and members of his Cabinet, underscoring the importance of the tax law and the business climate to Republicans' midterm election hopes. Florida has long been one of the nation's campaign battlegrounds and will be among several states contested by both parties in the fight to control Congress.

The event included testimonials from Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, a one-time campaign rival who praised the administration's handling of Cuba and Venezuela, and several Cuban business leaders. Trump did not publicly respond to the ABC News interview by former FBI Director James Comey, keeping focused instead on the economy.

Speaking a day before the personal income tax filing deadline, Trump said: "This is the last time we're going to fill out that long, complicated, horrible return." The president said next year, once the tax law is fully implemented, filing a federal return will be "simple and easy to do."

Trump has withheld the release of his personal tax returns, falling short of the standard followed by presidents since Richard Nixon started the practice in 1969. During the 2016 campaign, Trump argued he couldn't release his taxes because he was under an audit by the IRS.

At the Hialeah event, the president praised his new national security adviser John Bolton for the air strikes in Syria on Friday. As the crowd applauded, Trump joked, "Are you giving him all the credit? You know that means the end of his job."

Trump was headed to his Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, Florida, later Monday, preparing for two days of meetings with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
MVA-RFP-18-2012

For: Local Public Relations and Media Services

Submission /Closing Date: **May 15, 2018**
Time: **3:00 p.m.**

Submit sealed proposals to:
Marianas Visitors Authority
Procurement Office
San Jose Professional Building
Beach Rd., San Jose
P.O. Box 500861
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the Scope of Work on or after **April 16, 2018**, at the **Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan**, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Proposals submitted from individuals outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or certified courier services by **May 15, 2018** and must be received within seven (7) working days of that date. Proposers from outside the Commonwealth must notify the MVA/ Mr. David B. Muna in writing of their intent to submit a proposal in order to receive the additional seven (7) days for the receipt of the actual Proposal Documents. Participants outside the **Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands** must submit a **Notice of Intent** by any mode of written communication including facsimile at+1-670-664-3237 or email to dmuna@mymarianas.com, and must be received by 5 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on **May 15, 2018**.

All questions regarding this RFP must be sent to Mr. David B. Muna at dmuna@mymarianas.com or faxed to +1-670-664-3237, **no later than 5 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on April 30, 2018.**

/s/ Gloria C. Cavanagh
Chairperson, Board of Directors

/s/ Christopher A. Concepcion
Managing Director

JUDICIARY
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
18-JUDICIARY-03

INSTALATION OF SURVELLANCE CAMERAS
at the
GUMA HUSTISIA, IIMWAL AWEEWE, HOUSE OF JUSTICE,
SUSUPE, SAIPAN

Submission Date: May 18, 2018, 3:00 P.M.

The Commonwealth Judicial Branch is soliciting sealed proposals for the installation of thirty five (35) surveillance cameras to be installed at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewee/House of Justice, Saipan.

Firms or individuals submitting proposals must have a valid CNMI business license and be in compliance with applicable local and federal laws and regulations, including minimum wage requirements.

Proposal procedures shall comply with CNMI Procurement Regulations (NMIAC Title 70, Subchapter 30.3).

The proposal package will be available on **April 18, 2018** at the Cashier's Window, Guma Hustisia, Saipan, or by request faxed to (670) 236-9797 or emailed to Jim.Stowell@justice.gov.mp.

A mandatory pre-proposal meeting will be held on **May 3rd at 9:00 a.m., local time** at the Guma Hustisia Law Revision Commission–Law Library. The meeting is expected to take at least an hour in order to provide prospective proposal submitters the opportunity to acquire sufficient knowledge of the building and the coaxial cable runs from cameras to the control / recording room so as to be able to present a bid that completely anticipates the material and labor costs entailed in completing the job.

Sealed proposals must be marked **RFP18-JUDICIARY-03** and submitted in one (1) original and three (3) copies at the Cashier's Window, Guma Hustisia, Saipan no later than **May 18, 2018, 3:00 p.m., local time.** Firms or individuals submitting proposals from outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose to the Budget and Finance Director no later than **May 30, 2019, 3:00 p.m., local time.** Notices of Intent may be faxed to (670) 236-9797 or emailed to John.Villagomez@justice.gov.mp.

The CNMI Judiciary the right to reject any or all proposals, or portions thereof, and waive immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI Judiciary. All proposals received shall become the property of the CNMI Judiciary and will not be returned to the proposer.

/s/ Alexandro C. Castro
Chief Justice

/s/ John T. Villagomez
Budget and Finance Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Telephone: (670) 664-4282
Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the March 6, 2018 regular meeting which was originally recessed has been rescheduled to continue on Saturday, April 21, 2018, at 10:00 a.m., in accordance with the meeting Agenda approved on March 6, 2018. The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan. Public attendance is encouraged.

Nation

What's in those seized records? Trump's biggest new worry

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump and his allies have hit a new level of anxiety after the raid on his personal attorney's office, fearful of deeper exposure for Trump, his inner circle and his adult children—and more than concerned that they don't know exactly what is in those records and electronic devices seized last week.

There is also some worry that Michael Cohen, the self-described legal fixer who helped make bad stories go away and took a leading role in Trump Organization projects in foreign outposts, may strike a deal with prosecutors out of concern about his own prospects.

"I think it's a huge minefield for Donald Trump and the Trump Organization," said trial attorney Joseph Cammarata, who represented Paula Jones in her sexual harassment suit against President Bill Clinton. "I think this is on its own track and this train is coming down the track with brute force."

The wild legal show continued to play out Monday, at a court hearing in New York before a federal judge who is considering what to do with the material that the FBI seized from Cohen. The scene was punctuated by dramatic entrances and revelations. Stormy Daniels - the porn actress who alleged she had a sexual affair with the president - made an appearance, stumbling on her high heels as she was swarmed by press. Cohen was forced to reveal that another one of his clients is Fox News host Sean Hannity, a high-profile confidant of the president.



AP

Protesters project a sign on the Trump International Hotel in Washington, Monday, April 16, 2018, to protest President Donald Trump.

Trump left the White House for Florida, for a two-day summit with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the president's Mar-a-Lago estate. Advisers are hoping the meeting will draw attention from the legal tempest in Washington and New York.

On the trip south, White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders sought to put distance between Trump and Cohen, saying: "I believe they've still got some ongoing things, but the president has a large number of attorneys, as you know."

The federal raid, carried out a week ago in New York City, sought bank records, information on Cohen's dealing in the taxi industry, Cohen's communications with the Trump campaign and information on payments he made in 2016 to former Playboy model Karen McDougal and to Daniels, both of whom allege relationships with Trump, people familiar with the raid told the Associated Press. The court proceedings Monday dealt with who gets to look at Cohen's seized documents and devices before they are turned over to prosecutors.

Though Cohen once said he "would take a bullet" for Trump, he is aware of the possible outcome—including potential prison time—and has expressed worry about his family, said a person who has spoken to the lawyer in recent days but is not authorized to discuss private conversations. Cohen has not been charged with anything.

Trump's moods have grown darker in recent days, as he lashes out at the "overreach" of the raid. Further angering the president is that the raid was triggered in part by a referral from special counsel Robert Mueller, who is looking into Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. presidential election. The raid was authorized by the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York.

On Twitter Sunday, Trump said that all lawyers are now "deflated and concerned" by the FBI raid on Cohen, adding that "Attorney Client privilege is now a thing of the past." Trump has also taken to downplaying Cohen's role.

The president also inveighed further against former FBI Director James Comey, who said Monday morning that Trump was morally unfit to be president. That was a few hours after Comey said the same and worse in a highly promoted ABC interview.

Many in the White House view the aftershocks of the Cohen raid as potentially more threatening than Mueller's Russia probe, fearful of what skeletons may be in the lawyer's closets, according to five officials and outside allies who all spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations.

"I agree with the consensus forming that it's very dangerous for the president, probably the most serious thing yet," said Sol Wisenberg, a defense attorney who was a deputy independent counsel during the Starr special counsel investigation into Clinton. "Even if you shut Mueller down some way, how do you shut down the Southern District (federal court)?"

Inmate: Bodies stacked in 'macabre woodpile' in prison riot

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—As the hours dragged on during a riot at a South Carolina prison, bodies piled up on the sidewalk. An inmate inside watched in dismay as several fellow prisoners, two he knew well, lay dead and dying, their bodies leaving trails of blood leading back inside the prison walls.

One bloodied man tried to get up before he "started into that 'death rattle' people often hear about, but never experience firsthand," the inmate told The Associated Press after the attack. Moments later, the dying man was silent, another casualty of the night's events.

The inmate sent messages to AP as events unfolded overnight Sunday into Monday morning at Lee Correctional Institution. At the end of the seven-hour ordeal, seven inmates lay dead, with 17 others sent to hospitals for treatment.

With many cell door locks broken at Lee, a maximum-security prison, the inmate told AP he freely went outside, where he said he saw bodies "literally stacked on top of each other, like some macabre woodpile."

State officials Monday blamed the carnage on a turf war between gangs over territory, money and contraband items like cellphones. For seven hours, Corrections Director Bryan Stirling said, inmates armed with homemade knives fought each other, leaving seven dead in the worst U.S. prison riot in a quarter-century. Most of the slain were stabbed or slashed; the remainder appeared to have been beaten, Lee County Coroner Larry Logan said.

The first fight started in a dorm about 7:15 p.m. Sunday and appeared to be contained before suddenly starting in two other dorms. No prison guards were hurt. Stirling said they followed protocol by backing out and asking for support. It took several hours to restore order, but once a special SWAT team entered, the inmates gave up peacefully, he said.

The prisoner who saw the riot exchanged messages with AP on the condition of anonymity because he is not allowed to have a cellphone and fears retribution from other inmates. He said he saw several attackers taunt a rival gang member who was badly injured.

"I have no doubt he could have had a fighting chance if someone had simply opened the gate and let the others carry him up front," the inmate told AP. "The man died laying on a sidewalk with some of the people who helped kill him laughing at him and taunting him ..."

The inmate said he and other prisoners roamed around freely at the prison in Bishopville, about 40 miles (65 kilometers) east of Columbia. Hours after the violence started, no corrections officers or medical personnel attended to the dead or dying, he said.

US says California rejects proposed border duties for troops

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The Trump administration said Monday that California Gov. Jerry Brown rejected terms of the National Guard's initial deployment to the Mexican border, but a state official said nothing was decided.

"The governor determined that what we asked for is unsupportable, but we will have other iterations," Ronald Vitiello, U.S. Customs and Border Protection's acting deputy commissioner, told reporters in Washington.

Brown elicited rare and effusive praise from President Donald Trump last week for pledging 400 troops to the Guard's third large-scale border mission since 2006.

But the Democratic governor conditioned his commitment on his state's troops having nothing to do with immigration enforcement, even in a supporting role.

Brown's announcement last week did not address what specific jobs the California Guard would and would not do, nor answer the thorny question of how state officials would distinguish work related to immigration from other duties.

Vitiello said the governor decided California will not accept terms of an initial troop rollout for the state that was similar to plans for the other three border states, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas.

According to two U.S. officials, the initial jobs for those troops include fixing and maintaining vehicles, using remote-control surveillance cameras to report suspicious activity to U.S. Border Patrol agents, operating radios and providing "mission support," which can include clerical work, buying gas and handling payrolls. The officials spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter.

California National Guard spokesman Lt. Col. Thomas Keegan said "state officials have not rejected anything" since Brown proposed a formal agreement Wednesday with the Homeland Security and Defense Departments that prohibits any involvement in immigration.

"The federal government has not yet responded," Keegan said in an emailed statement.

Homeland Security Department spokesman Tyler Houlton said the federal government was committed to working with Brown and that the California leader shares interest in a secure border with Mexico.

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense Integration Robert G. Salesses said the administration wanted 237 troops for work in two parts of the state that California "has indicated they will not perform."

Asia

Trump to host Japan's Abe amid strain over N. Korea, tariffs

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)—President Donald Trump will play host to Japan's Shinzo Abe at Mar-a-Lago this week amid growing strain between the two countries over the president's planned meeting with North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un and his push for new tariffs.

The visit will be an opportunity for the two leaders to discuss Trump's upcoming summit with North Korea, which Japan eyes warily. It will also serve as a test of whether the fond personal relationship the two leaders have forged on the golf course and over meetings and phone calls has chilled over Trump's recent moves, including his failure to exempt Japan from new steel and aluminum tariffs.

"We expect it to be very positive," White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Monday of Abe's visit. "Obviously, the president has got a great relationship there, and it's going to be centered primarily on preparation for talks with North Korea as well as a lot of trade discussion is expected to come up."

The official visit will begin Tuesday afternoon with a one-on-one meeting followed by a small group discussion with top national security officials focused on the Kim summit. In the evening, the president and first lady Melania Trump will have dinner with the Japanese prime minister and his wife.

On Wednesday, the topic will broaden to other issues affecting the Indo-Pacific region, including trade and energy. Trump and Abe will also hold a joint press conference before the president and first lady host the Japanese delegations for dinner. Abe will return to Japan on Thursday morning.

Golf is not on the official schedule, but senior administration officials didn't rule it out completely. Trump and Abe played together during Abe's last trip to Florida a year ago and during Trump's maiden trip to Japan late last year.

When Trump hosted Abe at his private Mar-a-Lago club just weeks after his inauguration, North Korea launched its first missile test of Trump's administration, and the two delivered a joint statement denouncing the launch.



In this April 16, 2018, photo, President Donald Trump speaks at an event to promote his tax cut package in Hialeah, Fla. AP

This time, Abe's visit comes weeks after Trump took him—and the region—by surprise when he announced he had accepted an invitation to sit down with Kim following months of increasingly heated rhetoric over the North's nuclear weapons program.

Among the major powers in Northeast Asia, Japan has been left out of the recent flurry of diplomacy with North Korea. Abe will be seeking reassurance from Trump that security threats to Japan won't be overlooked in the U.S.-North Korea summit, slated for May or early June.

Mike Pompeo, Trump's pick for secretary of state, said the goal of the summit is to get North Korea to "step away from its efforts to hold America at risk with nuclear weapons."

Abe has voiced fears that short- and medium-range missiles that pose a threat to Japan might not be part of the U.S. negotiations and has said he worries Trump may "end up accepting North Korea's possession of nuclear weapons."

James Schoff, a former Pentagon adviser on East Asia policy and now a senior associate for the Asia program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, said the North Korea summit will be front and center of the visit.

"Abe will want to know what Trump's trying to get out of the meeting and what he's willing to offer," Schoff said. "Abe will want to reinforce the idea that maximum pressure must continue until we get complete denuclearization."

Abe is also expected to push for exemptions on new U.S. tariffs on steel and aluminum imports that have been granted to several key U.S. allies.

Takehiro Shimada, a spokesman for the Embassy of Japan, said the country can't accept Trump's decision on the tariffs and will be pushing Trump to reconsider.

"That's what we really wanted to ask the America side is, 'Why?'" he said.

Japan could also express support for a U.S. return to the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal that Trump abandoned on taking office. Trump opened the possibility of rejoining last week amid a trade dispute with China.

Both sides insist that Trump and Abe remain close. U.S. officials stressed that Trump has met with Abe more than any other world leader and say they've been in "constant contact" since Trump accepted Kim's invitation.

Abe is also expected to push the issue of Japanese abductees, one of his top policy priorities. Pyongyang has acknowledging abducting 13 Japanese, while Tokyo maintains North Korea abducted 17. Five have been returned to Japan. North Korea says eight others died and denies the remaining four entered its territory. Japan has not been satisfied with North Korea's explanation and has demanded further investigation.

Shimada said Abe would make the case to Trump that releasing the abductees could help North Korea prove they can be trusted to negotiate in good faith after years of deception.

The U.S. itself is pushing for the release of three Americans.

After five years in office, Abe is one of Japan's longest-serving, post-World War II prime ministers but has suffered plummeting poll ratings over allegations that a school linked to his wife got preferential government treatment in a land sale.

Pakistan watchdog says country failing on human rights

ISLAMABAD (AP)—An independent Pakistani watchdog criticized the country's human rights record over the past year in a new report released Monday, saying the nation has failed to make progress on a myriad of issues, ranging from forced disappearances, to women's rights and protection of religious minorities.

The damning report card issued by the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan says people continue to disappear in Pakistan, sometimes because they criticize the country's powerful military or because they advocate better relations with neighboring India.

The controversial blasphemy law continues to be misused, especially against dissidents, with cases in which mere accusations that someone committed blasphemy lead to deadly mob violence, it said.

While deaths directly linked to acts of terrorism declined in 2017, the report says attacks against the country's minorities were on the rise.

The 296-page report was dedicated to one of the commission's founders, Asma Jahangir, whose death in February generated worldwide outpouring of grief and accolades for the 66-year-old activist who was fierce in her commitment to human rights.

"We have lost a human rights giant," U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres said following Jahangir's death. "She was a tireless advocate for inalienable rights of all people and for equality—whether in her capacity as a Pakistani lawyer in the domestic justice system, as a global civil society activist, or as a Special Rapporteur ... Asma will not be forgotten."

Monday's report also took aim at religious bigotry in Pakistan and the government's refusal to push back against religious zealots, fearing a backlash.

"Freedom of expression and freedom of association is under attack, except for those who carry the religious banner," commission spokesman I.A. Rehman said at the release of the report, which accused Pakistani authorities of ignoring "intolerance and extremism."

Religious conservative organizations continue to resist laws aimed at curbing violence against women, laws giving greater rights to women and removing legal restrictions on social exchanges between sexes, which remain segregated in many parts of Pakistani society, it said.

Still, there was legal progress in other areas, it noted, describing as a "landmark development" a new law in the country's largest province, Punjab, which accepts marriage licenses within the Sikh community at the local level, giving the unions protection under the law.

But religious minorities in Pakistan continued to be a target of extremists, it said, citing attacks on Shiites, Christians falsely accuse of blasphemy and also on Ahmedis, a sect reviled by mainstream Muslims as heretics. Ahmedis are not allowed under Pakistan's constitution to call themselves Muslims.

"In a year when freedom of thought, conscience and religion continued to be stifled, incitement to hatred and bigotry increased, and tolerance receded even further," said the report.

ASIA BRIEFS

8 suspects in rape, killing of Indian girl plead not guilty

NEW DELHI (AP)—Eight Hindu men accused in the gang rape and killing of an 8-year-old Muslim girl in India's Jammu and Kashmir state pleaded not guilty Monday in their first court appearance. The child's battered body was found in a forest in January, a week after she went missing while grazing her family's ponies. Police say the accused men planned the child's kidnapping for over a month as part of a plan to scare her Muslim nomadic tribe away from the area. Police said the child was sedated and held captive at a Hindu temple where she was repeatedly raped before being strangled and bludgeoned to death. The court on Monday instructed the investigators to make sure that the accused men had copies of all the charges they faced before the next hearing on April 26.

China, Japan seek to mend ties as Trump trade war looms

TOKYO (AP)—China and Japan took another step toward mending their troubled relations Monday, resuming high-level economic talks for the first time in nearly eight years. Foreign Minister Wang Yi led the Chinese delegation, becoming the first foreign minister to visit Japan for bilateral talks since 2009. Asia's two largest economies have been trying to improve strained ties and now have further reason to cooperate in the face of President Donald Trump's moves to impose tariffs on imports from their countries and his demands that they open their markets more to American exports. Wang, meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, noted the threats of rising unilateralism and trade protectionism.

S. Korean businessman kills himself in Hong Kong custody

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong authorities said Monday that a South Korean businessman accused of murdering his wife and son in a five-star hotel killed himself while in pre-trial custody. The man was found unconscious in the morning in his cell at a Hong Kong detention center. The statement did not give his name, but media reports identified him as Kim Min-ho. The man was found with a bed sheet wrapped around his neck and was taken to a hospital, where he was later certified dead, the statement said. Police had arrested Kim in January for allegedly killing his wife and son at Hong Kong's Ritz-Carlton hotel. Media reports said the 43-year-old Kim was chief executive officer of the South Korean franchise of the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory. Kim had been scheduled to appear in court again on May 23.

World

Chemical weapons team in Syria kept from alleged attack site

DOUMA, Syria (AP)—Syrian and Russian authorities prevented independent investigators from going to the scene of a suspected chemical attack, the head of the chemical watchdog group said Monday, blocking international efforts to establish what happened and who was to blame.

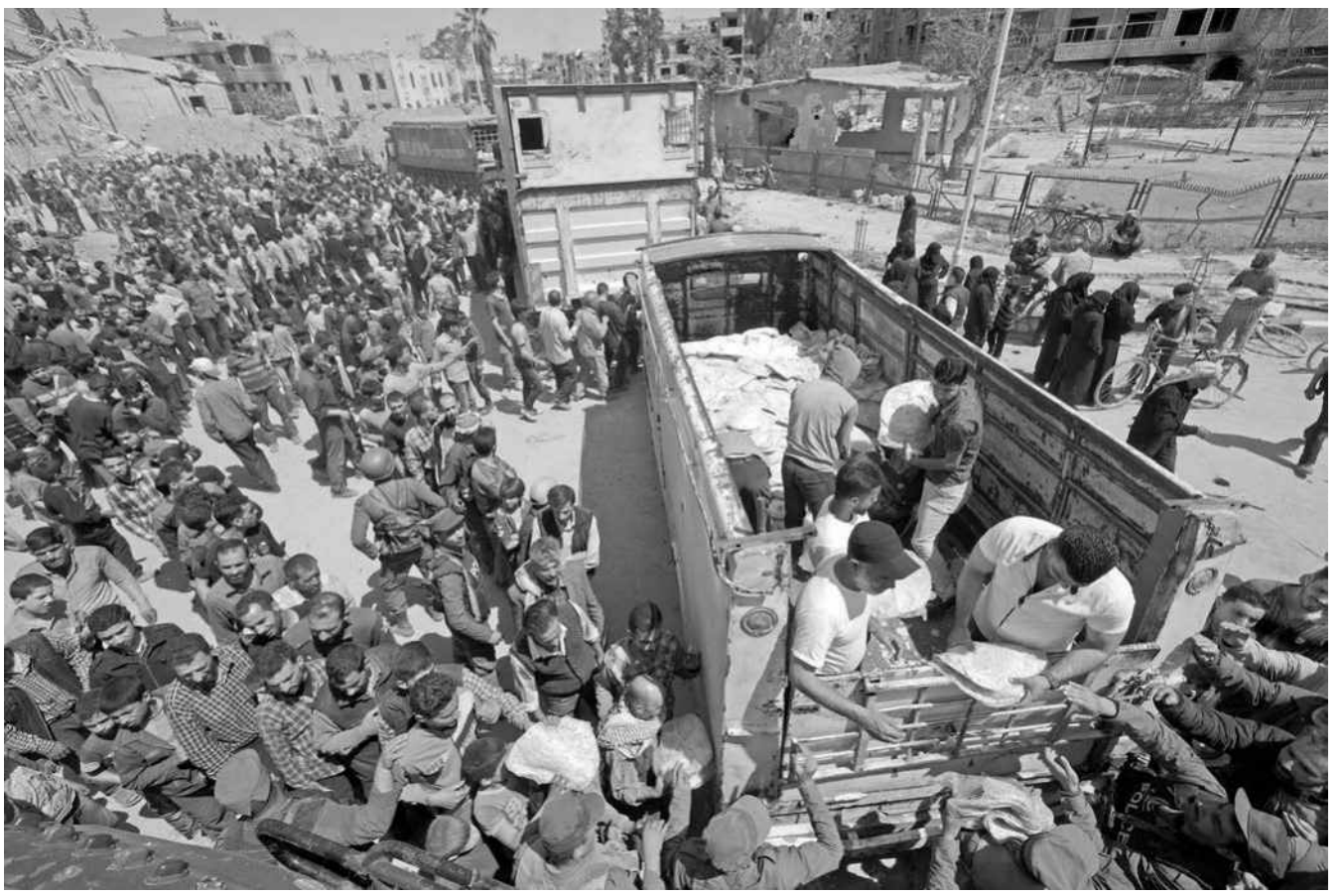
The U.S. and France say they have evidence that poison gas was used in the April 7 attack in the opposition-held town of Douma, killing dozens of people, and that Syrian President Bashar Assad's military was behind it.

But they have made none of that evidence public, even after they, along with Britain, bombarded sites they said were linked to Syria's chemical weapons program.

Syria and its ally Russia deny any chemical attack took place, and Russian officials went even further, accusing Britain of staging a "fake" chemical attack. British Prime Minister Theresa May accused the two countries—whose forces now control the town east of Damascus—of trying to cover up evidence.

The lack of access to Douma by inspectors from the watchdog group, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, has left unanswered questions about the attack.

OPCW Director-General Ahmet Uzumcu said Syrian and Russian officials cited "pending security issues" in keeping its inspectors from reaching Douma.



AP
Syrian authorities distribute bread, vegetables and pasta to Douma residents in the town of Douma, the site of a suspected chemical weapons attack, near Damascus, Syria, Monday, April 16, 2018.

"The team has not yet deployed to Douma," Uzumcu told an executive council meeting of the OPCW in The Hague.

Instead, Syrian authorities offered them 22 people to interview as witnesses, he said, adding that he hoped "all necessary arrangements will be made ... to allow the team to deploy to Douma as soon as possible."

Russian military police were ready to help protect the OPCW experts on their visit to Douma, said Maj. Gen. Yuri Yevtushenko of the Russian military's Reconciliation Center in Syria. Igor Kirillov, a Russian chemical weapons protection expert in The Hague, said the team is set to visit the site Wednesday.

Earlier Monday, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said the inspectors could not go to the site because they needed approval from the U.N. Department for Safety and Security. He denied that Russia was hampering the mission and suggested the approval was held up because of the Western airstrikes.

"As far as I understand, what is hampering a speedy resolution of this problem is the consequences of the illegal, unlawful military action that Great Britain and other countries conducted on Saturday," he said.

However, U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said the United Nations has "provided the necessary clearances for the OPCW team to go about its work in Douma. We have not denied the team any request for it to go to Douma."

Early Tuesday, the government-run Central Military media reported a missile attack on the Shayrat air base in Homs province. It said Syrian air defenses shot down most of the six missiles fired at the base. It also reported a separate airstrike on the Dumayr air base near Damascus.

It did not elaborate or say who carried out the airstrikes. A Pentagon spokeswoman said there was no U.S. military activity in the area.

Earlier this month, four Iranian military personnel were killed in an airstrike on Syria's T4 air base in Homs. Syria and its allies blamed Israel for that attack. Israel did not confirm or deny mounting the raid.

In Douma, at least 40 people are believed to have died in the suspected chemical attack on April 7. Until Saturday, the city was the last rebel-held town near the capital and the target of a government offensive in February and March that killed hundreds and displaced tens of thousands. Hours after the alleged chemical attack, the rebel faction that controlled the town, the Army of Islam, relented and was evacuated along with thousands of residents.

Syrian state media report new missile attack in Homs region

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian state-run media reported that the country's air defenses confronted a new "aggression," shooting down missiles over the central region of Homs early on Tuesday.

The reports did not say who carried out the pre-dawn strikes. The government-run Syrian Central Media said the missiles targeted the Shayrat air base in Homs.

Earlier this month, four Iranian military personnel were killed in an airstrike on Syria's T4 air base, also in Homs. Syria and its main allies Iran and Russia blamed Israel for that attack. Israel did not confirmed or deny mounting the raid.

The reports came just a few days after the United States, Britain and France conducted airstrikes targeting alleged chemical weapons facilities in Syria, in retaliation for a suspected chemical weapons attack that they blamed on the Syrian government.

Experts from the international chemical weapons watchdog are now in Damascus and have been waiting to visit the site of the suspected chemical attack in the town of Douma, just east of Damascus.

On Monday, Syrian and Russian authorities prevented investigators from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons from going to the scene, the head of the OPCW said, blocking international efforts to establish what happened and who was to blame.

The U.S. and France say they have evidence that poison gas was used in the April 7 attack in Douma, killing at least 40 people, and that Syrian President Bashar Assad's military was behind it.

But they have made none of that evidence public, even after they, along with Britain, carried out airstrikes on Saturday, bombing sites they said were linked to Syria's chemical weapons program.

Syria and its ally Russia deny any chemical attack took place, and Russian officials went even further, accusing Britain of staging a "fake" chemical attack. British Prime Minister Theresa May accused the two countries—whose forces now control the town east of Damascus—of trying to cover up evidence.

The lack of access to Douma has left unanswered questions about the attack. OPCW Director-General Ahmet Uzumcu said Syrian and Russian officials cited "pending security issues" in keeping its inspectors from reaching Douma.

"The team has not yet deployed to Douma," Uzumcu told an executive council meeting of the OPCW in The Hague on Monday.

Instead, Syrian authorities offered them 22 people to interview as witnesses, he said, adding that he hoped "all necessary arrangements will be made ... to allow the team to deploy to Douma as soon as possible."

Russian military police were ready to help protect the OPCW experts on their visit to Douma, said Maj. Gen. Yuri Yevtushenko of the Russian military's Reconciliation Center in Syria. Igor Kirillov, a Russian chemical weapons protection expert in The Hague, said the team is set to visit the site Wednesday.

Earlier Monday, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said the inspectors could not go to the site because they needed approval from the U.N. Department for Safety and Security. He denied that Russia was hampering the mission and suggested the approval was held up because of the Western airstrikes.

"As far as I understand, what is hampering a speedy resolution of this problem is the consequences of the illegal, unlawful military action that Great Britain and other countries conducted on Saturday," he said.

Terrorism accusation in Basque bar brawl reopens old wounds

MADRID (AP)—The trial of seven men and one woman accused of beating up two police officers and their girlfriends two years ago in northern Spain opened Monday amid controversy because of the terrorism charges brought against the defendants.

The fight at a bar in the small town of Alsasua in the early hours of Oct. 15, 2016, left one off-duty officer with a broken ankle and caused psychological trauma to all the victims, according to Civil Guard unions.

Prosecutors say the brawl should be punished under the country's terrorism laws, as crimes of terrorist intent. They claim the attackers were members of Basque activism groups and that targeted the off-duty officers as part of their campaign to oust Spanish security forces from Basque areas. The goal is also shared by the militant separatist group ETA.

Areas with a strong Basque identity are grappling to overcome decades of violence at the hands of ETA, which killed more than 800 people including police, politicians and entrepreneurs before giving up its armed campaign for Basque independence in 2011.

Supporters say the charges are disproportionate for what they consider that was a simple bar brawl. They also complain that three of the defendants have been kept in pre-trial custody for nearly 18 months. They also consider the prosecutors' request for prison sentences ranging between 12 and 62 years as unreasonable.

"It would be a real judicial aberration to uphold the charges," defense lawyer Manuel Olle said Monday. "That would be trivializing terrorism in the criminal code."

Hearings have been scheduled for the next two weeks in the highly anticipated trial that opened Monday at the National Court in Madrid. A verdict could be months away.

Backed by regional and local authorities, tens of thousands of people protested over the weekend in the northern city of Pamplona, the capital of the province where Alsasua is located. The protesters marched behind a banner with the slogan "Justice. It's not terrorism."

Relatives of the defendants at the march said they were not backing impunity but urged that justice be applied "without exaggeration, distortion and disproportion."

Good Housekeeping

Calliope geraniums offer long season of dazzling color

By NORMAN WINTER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE



Calliope geraniums come in 5 habits representing 34 varieties. TNS

Calliope has quenched my thirst for long-lasting geraniums. No longer am I jealous of the West Coast as I now have geraniums that I plant in April and they continue to look great at Christmas.

Perhaps there should be a caveat or two to that. I grow geraniums in mixed containers and baskets, which is exactly what I was doing in Rincon Ga., which is about 20 miles northwest of Savannah, Ga.

Perhaps winter was late, the morning sun and afternoon shade perfect or maybe the live oaks gave me the ideal microclimate. The point is the South has never had geraniums that bloomed non-stop through the torrid heat of July and August, lantanas do that but not geraniums, at least until now.

Syngenta Flowers is the mastermind behind the Calliope geranium series. I say series, now, after a decade of first writing about them, they have grown into a series representing five distinct habits. There are Calliope Compact, Medium, Large, Landscape, and Cascade.

You'll find 34 varieties in a habit and color to allow your creative genius to bloom. Since they are easy to grow, you'll also show your green thumb. The Dallas Arboretum has some of the most well-known trials in the country. They put them through the rigors. Calliope was outstanding, blooming until September.

They are such standout performers you can forget the thriller spiller filler recipes and let them perform 'Mono Magic.' Of course, they will work as component plants too which is what I was doing.

Mine were in concrete planters with Campfire coleus, Lemon Ball sedum, and Blue Wave petunias; and the Calliope geraniums lasted longer than the petunias.

Does this mean they will not work in the landscape? The answer is, of course, they will. In the South, the ideal location would be full sun until just past noon then a little protection in afternoon shade. They prefer fertile organic-rich soil with good drainage.

To prepare your soil, loosen it 8 to 12-inches deep, and add 3 to 4-inches of organic matter, like compost or humus. I recently bought 2-foot bags of soil conditioner at a local garden center that was both economical and outstanding. As you prepare your soil, take the opportunity to incorporate about one pound of 12-6-6-fertilizer or something slow released and balanced per 100 square feet and rake the soil smooth.

Geraniums are heavy feeders, and many gardeners do not apply enough fertilizer to meet the plants' nutrient needs. Feed every two weeks with a dilute, water-soluble fertilizer like a 20-20-20, or apply a granular, controlled-release fertilizer every four to six weeks per formula recommendation. When it is time to deadhead old flowers, don't just clip the cluster. Pinch or break off the flower stalk at the base.

This spring is an exciting time to see all of the new flowers showing up at the garden center. If you love geraniums like most gardeners, then keep your eyes open for all of the Calliope colors and habits available. You'll know you are getting a plant that will bring lots of color from now into fall.

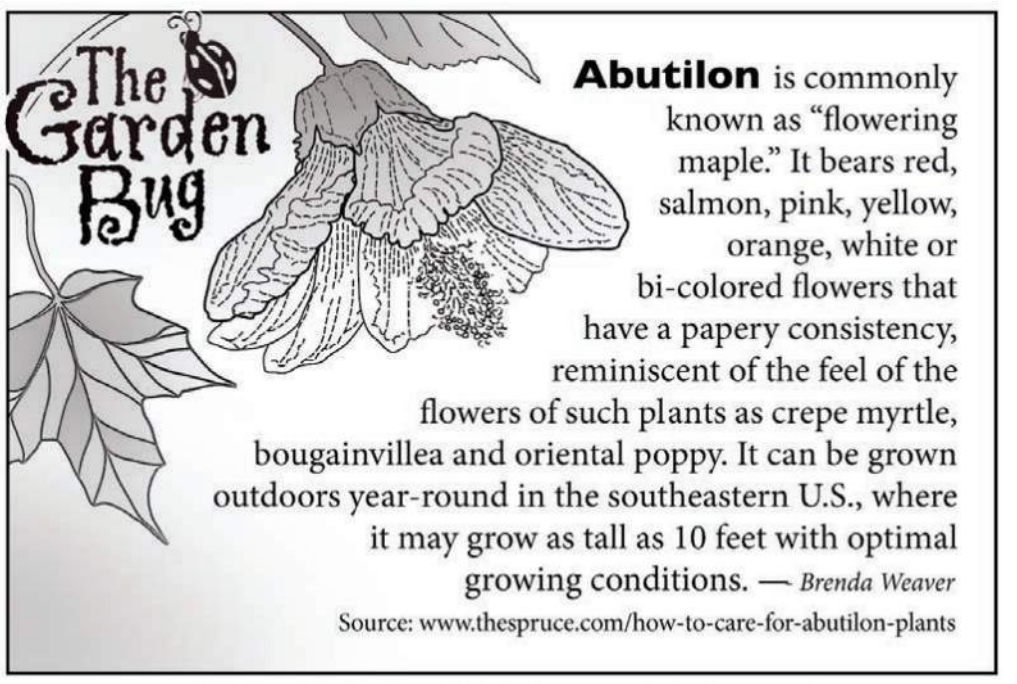


TNS

This mixed container of coleus sedum and Calliope geraniums was still blooming on Christmas day after being planted in late April.



The Calliope geranium series are known for heat tolerance and longevity of performance. TNS



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Life & Style



In this Aug. 27, 2017 file photo, musician Kendrick Lamar arrives at the MTV Video Music Awards in Inglewood, Calif.

AP

Music Pulitzer goes to rapper Lamar; fiction prize to 'Less'

Pulitzer judges upended decades of tradition by awarding its music prize Monday to Kendrick Lamar for his rap album "DAMN.," a sharp departure from the classical and jazz works the body have consistently favored. The decision, which drew praise and surprise online, quickly overshadowed other arts winners, including Andrew Sean Greer's win in the fiction category.

The Pulitzers were once so restrictive that an advisory board rejected giving a prize to Duke Ellington. The closest precedent to Lamar's win came in 2008 when Bob Dylan received an honorary Pulitzer.

The group's board called Lamar's album a "virtuosic song collection" and said it captures "the modern African American life." Classical composers were named as finalists: Michael Gilberton for "Quartet" and Ted Hearne for "Sound from the Bench."

Greer's novel "Less" tells the comic story about the misbegotten adventures of a middle-aged novelist. It didn't receive the same attention as Jesmyn Ward's "Sing, Unburied, Sing," winner of the National Book Award, or George Saunders' "Lincoln in the Bardo." But it was widely praised as poignant and funny and was ranked among the year's best by The Washington Post, which called it an "elegantly" told story of a man who "loses everything: his lover, his suitcase, his beard, his dignity."

The drama prize went to Martyna Majok "Cost of Living," a drama featuring four characters, two of them disabled. Caroline Fraser's work on author Laura Ingalls Wilder, "Prairie Fires," won for biography. Jack E. Davis' The Gulf: The Making of an American Sea" won for history, while the general nonfiction prize went to James Forman Jr's "Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America."

Frank Bidart's "Half-Light: Collected Poems 1965-2016," winner of a National Book Award last fall, received the Pulitzer for poetry. Bidart, who turns 80 next month, is one of the country's most acclaimed poets and has been a Pulitzer finalist before. His previous works include "Desire" and Star Dust."

"Everything I've done is in that book, so it really does mean a lot," Bidart said Monday. "It means more than any of the times I've been a finalist in the past."

Lamar hardly needed the help , but Pulitzers often boost sales for winning authors, playwrights and musicians and ensure attention for future works. They can serve as the summation of a long career, such as Bidart's, or help establish a younger artist.

The Pulitzers judges wrote that Forman's work draws on "vast experience and deep knowledge of the legal system, and its often-devastating consequences for citizens and communities of color." Forman told The Associated Press on Monday that he felt there was a "complexity in the African-American experience that wasn't being represented in the literature.

"On many topics, black voices are either relegated to the sidelines or there's a single character who is called to stand in for the black view," he said.

Fraser told the AP that she had written about Wilder in the past and has been a fan of her books since she was a girl growing up on Mercer Island, just outside Seattle. She also acknowledged criticism of how American Indians have been portrayed in Wilder's "Little House On the Prairie" novels.

"To be sure, she repeats various slurs. For starters, there's the infamous, 'The only good Indian is a dead Indian,'" she said Monday. "'Little House on the Prairie,' in particular, is a very complex work in that regard and I think it tells us a lot about ourselves—if we came from white settlement, if we live in the West, if we have ties to that past. I think it remains a really important work in terms of telling us who we were."

The American Library Association is considering changing the name of an award in Wilder's name over "racist and anti-Native sentiments" that are not "universally embraced."

Davis, who teaches history at the University of Florida, grew up along the Gulf Coast and said that it concerned him that the Gulf was little known to Americans beyond BP oil spill of 2010.

"I feel that the spill robbed the Gulf of its true identity," he told the AP. "It's very much part of the larger American historical narrative but if you look at most school texts it's not even listed in the index." ***(AP)***

Times, New Yorker win Pulitzer for Weinstein scandal

NEW YORK (AP)—The New York Times and The New Yorker won the Pulitzer Prize for public service Monday for breaking the Harvey Weinstein scandal with reporting that galvanized the #MeToo movement and set off a worldwide reckoning over sexual misconduct in the workplace.

The Times and The Washington Post took the award in the national reporting category for their coverage of Russian meddling in the 2016 U.S. presidential election and contacts between President Donald Trump's campaign and Russian officials.

The Press Democrat of Santa Rosa, California, received the breaking news reporting award for coverage of the wildfires that swept through California wine country last fall, killing 44 people and destroying thousands of homes.

The Washington Post also won the investigative reporting prize for revealing decades-old allegations of sexual misconduct against Senate candidate Roy Moore of Alabama. The Republican former judge denied the accusations, but they figured heavily in Doug Jones' victory as the first Democrat elected to the Senate from the state in decades.

One of the biggest surprises of the day came in the nonjournalism categories when rap star Kendrick Lamar was awarded the Pulitzer for music, becoming the first nonclassical or non-jazz artist to win the prize.

The Pulitzers, American journalism's most prestigious awards, reflected a year of unrelenting news and unprecedented challenges for U.S. media, as Trump repeatedly branded reporting "fake news" and called journalists "the enemy of the people."

The New York Times won three Pulitzers and The Washington Post and Reuters received two apiece.

In announcing the journalism prizes, Pulitzer administrator Dana Canedy said the winners "uphold the highest purpose of a free and independent press, even in the most trying of times."

"Their work is real news of the highest order, executed nobly, as journalism was always intended, without fear or favor," she said.

A string of stories in The Times and The Washington Post shined a light on Russian interference in the presidential election and its possible connections to the Trump campaign and transition—ties now under investigation by special counsel Robert Mueller. The president has called the investigation a "witch hunt."

The Pulitzer judges commended the two newspapers for "deeply sourced, relentlessly reported coverage in the public interest."

In stories that appeared within days of each other in October, The Times and The New Yorker reported that movie mogul Weinstein faced allegations of sexual harassment and assault from a multitude of women in Hollywood and had secretly paid settlements to keep the claims from becoming public.

The Pulitzer judges said The Times' reporters, led by Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey, and The New Yorker's Ronan Farrow produced "explosive, impactful journalism that exposed powerful and wealthy sexual predators" and forced the issue of sexual abuse into the open.

ABC makes unusual decision to release all of Comey talk

NEW YORK (AP)—Before airing George Stephanopoulos' interview with former FBI Director James Comey, ABC News made the unusual decision of releasing a full transcript of its nearly five-hour talk, including all the material that was not included in the broadcast.

ABC News President James Goldston said in an interview Monday that it was an important example of transparency, and that it had paid off with the transcript becoming by far the most popular item on ABC News' website.

Comey's interview, the first on the media tour to promote his book "A Higher Loyalty," was seen by 9.8 million viewers on Sunday night, the Nielsen company said. That's a good number for the network, which reached 3.6 million viewers in the same time slot the week before with the drama "Deception."

It was less than half of the 22 million people who watched adult film star Stormy Daniels talk on "60 Minutes" last month about her alleged affair with President Donald Trump, which he denies. Comey probably would have drawn more viewers if he gave his first interview to "60 Minutes"; the CBS show reached 10.4 million people on Sunday. But Comey reportedly sought more time on the air for his first interview, and ABC offered the full hour.

Beyonce gives $100,000 to 4 historically black schools

NEW YORK (AP)—Beyonce paid tribute to historically black colleges during her groundbreaking Coachella performance, and now the singer is donating $100,000 to four black universities.

The superstar singer announced Monday the Homecoming Scholars Award Program for the 2018-2019 academic year through her BeyGOOD initiative. She plans to give $25,000 each to Tuskegee University, Bethune-Cookman University, Xavier University of Louisiana and Wilberforce University. One student from each school will receive the scholarship money.

Beyonce's Coachella festival set was critically acclaimed, as Beyonce paid tribute to the marching bands, the dance troupes and step teams at historically black colleges.

Last year, the singer launched the Formation Scholars Awards Program, supporting creative and bold young women, in celebration of the one-year anniversary of her "Lemonade" album.

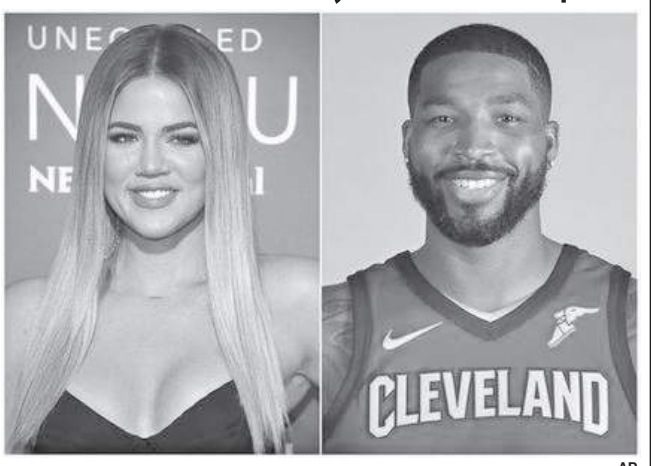
Drum roll, please: Khloe Kardashian's baby is True Thompson

NEW YORK (AP)—Because who doesn't like a good Kardashian baby name announcement? Khloe and Cleveland Cavaliers player Tristan Thompson have named their new addition True.

The April 12 birth came amid a torrent of tabloid speculation about the couple after surveillance video showed the basketball star making out with other women. True Thompson, who weighed in at 6 pounds, 13 ounces and measured 21 inches, is Thompson's second child and the first for Kardashian.

Kardashian said in announcing the birth online that True has "completely stolen our hearts." She said she and Thompson are "overwhelmed with LOVE."

The "Keeping Up with the Kardashians" star has long talked about her desire to be a mother.



AP

This combination photo shows television personality Khloe Kardashian at the NBCUniversal Network 2017 Upfront at Radio City Music Hall in New York on May 15, 2017, left, and Cleveland Cavaliers' Tristan Thompson at the NBA basketball team media day in Independence, Ohio, on Sept. 25, 2017.

Hannity shares world view with Trump, and lawyer, too

NEW YORK (AP)—Sean Hannity shares a world view with President Donald Trump and on Monday it was revealed, with some reluctance, that he shares a lawyer, too.

The Fox News Channel prime-time host is Trump's most vocal defender on television, and a week ago he was on the air criticizing the FBI raid on the president's personal attorney Michael Cohen as evidence that Special Counsel Robert Mueller's "witch hunt" against the president has become a runaway train.

After it was revealed in a court hearing Monday that Cohen represented Hannity, Fox News did not say whether it knew that ahead of time, or whether Hannity had any ethical obligation to reveal that relationship to viewers. Network representatives instead referred reporters to Hannity's own statements. A threat to Hannity is a threat to Fox: His show is the most-watched program on the network and he runs neck-and-neck with MSNBC's Rachel Maddow as the most popular on-air cable news personality.

Monday's hearing before U.S. District Court Judge Kimba Wood in New York was about what should happen to seized material from Cohen. Cohen's lawyers did not want to publicly reveal that Hannity was a client, but Wood said that "I understand he doesn't want his name out there, but that's not enough under the law."

Hannity said on his radio show that he had never retained Cohen "in any traditional sense," but that he occasionally went to him with legal questions. While he said he had not paid Cohen, he believed their discussions were protected under attorney-client privilege. He later tweeted that he mostly asked Cohen questions about legal matters.

"It never, ever involved a matter between me and any third party," Hannity said.

During his live radio show, he seemed flustered that he was getting a steady stream of phone and email messages about it.

"I don't think this is such a big deal," he said. "Why do you think the media is going crazy on this?"

Hannity waited until the last five minutes of his TV show to discuss the issue, after showing clips of his name being said on rival television networks dozens of time. He said the media was "absolutely apoplectic and hyperventilating."

He repeated what he said on the radio, adding that it "never rose to any level that I needed to tell anyone."

That was an apparent answer to two personalities on his own network. On Fox's show "The Five," panelist Juan Williams said Hannity had some questions to answer.

"The question for me is, why Sean didn't disclose this earlier," Williams said.

One of the guests on Hannity's show, lawyer Alan Dershowitz, told Hannity that "you should have disclosed your relationship with Cohen when you talked about him on the show."

Hannity replied that the relationship was minimal and that he had a right to privacy. "It had to do with real estate and nothing political," Hannity told Dershowitz.

Besides supporting Trump on his show, Hannity reportedly talks to the president regularly and, last week, Trump even tweeted out a promotion, telling his followers that Hannity was going to have a big show coming up.

It's not the first time Hannity and Trump have shared a lawyer, either. Hannity, who said Monday that he had eight lawyers representing him in various matters, revealed last summer on his radio show that he had hired Trump attorney Jay Sekulow. Sekulow has been a frequent guest on Hannity's Fox show.

On his Fox show last Monday, Hannity said that the Cohen raid represented a "dangerous phase" of Mueller's investigation "and there is no turning back from this."

Police: Suspect argued with men before fatal LA studio fire

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Investigators believe a Los Angeles man had argued with two men hours before he spread gasoline inside a music studio and set it ablaze, killing them and leaving two other people critically injured, police said Monday.

Efrem Demery, 28, was arrested on suspicion of murder after Saturday's fire at the Top Notch Recording Studio, Los Angeles police Capt. William Hayes said.

Investigators are still working to pin down a motive but believe Demery had been hanging out with two of the victims, 28-year-old Devaughn Carter and 30-year-old Michael Pollard, when an argument broke out, Hayes said.

Several hours later, Demery was caught on surveillance video at a gas station across the street from the recording studio, police said. Detectives suspect Demery filled a container with gasoline then walked inside the recording studio, pouring gasoline around one of the rooms before lighting it on fire, Hayes said.

Carter and Pollard, who police said were the "intended targets," died. Two other people—a man in his 20s and a 15-year-old girl—were injured and remained in critical condition on Monday, police said.

The fatal fire was a "senseless and horrific crime," Chief of Detectives Justin Eisenberg said at a news conference.

Los Angeles Fire Department arson investigators have not yet determined whether the building was in compliance with building codes or whether there were working smoke alarms, officials said.

"The direct nature of going after these individuals is obviously very heinous," Hayes said. "Arson is a brutal crime and a terrible way to die."

Demery, who has prior arrests for burglary and selling counterfeit goods, was being held without bail. A telephone number listed for him in public records rang unanswered Monday afternoon.

Marriage loses intimacy after accident disables husband

DEAR ABBY: Six years ago, my husband of 20 years was in a serious accident. He was placed on disability because of it. Because of the accident, he can't perform sexually because his "goods" don't work.

I am many years younger than he is and still in my prime. I need and want the cuddling and intimacy I'm not getting and haven't gotten for years. I have thought about finding a friend with benefits, but that's risky. I can't talk to him because he flips out and says, "Then leave!"

I feel our marriage has become just a living arrangement. Talking to a counselor or a doctor is out because he will refuse. Please help.

LOST AND LONELY

DEAR LOST AND LONELY: Your marriage doesn't have to be "just a living arrangement." Although sex may no longer be possible with your husband, there's no reason why there can't be cuddling, intimacy and affection. Talking to a licensed marriage and family therapist will be helpful for you, whether or not your husband agrees to go with you.

DEAR ABBY: My wife, "Cheryl," and I have been married for 47 years. We are both over 70 and retired. Cheryl is a wonderful mother, grandmother, cook and more. We love to travel, dance, go to movies and play with our grandchildren.

The issue is, she's very picky with the housekeeping and refuses to hire any help because she says nobody can do the job she does. I feel it's affecting our marriage because after she spends a full day once a week cleaning, she ends up exhausted and in a bad mood. I also feel guilty while she's doing all that work.

I don't think either one of us should have to do it. We are well-off and can easily pay someone to come for a full day of cleaning once a week. I keep telling her, to no avail, that she can't keep doing it forever. I welcome your suggestions.

NEEDING HELP IN TEXAS

DEAR NEEDING HELP: Cheryl may think what she's doing is being a good old-fashioned housewife. Enlighten her to the fact that you feel her compulsiveness is detrimental to your marriage. Try this: Tell her again you want her to give a housekeeper a chance. Repeat that you can afford it. Explain that if she's not satisfied after the person has cleaned, you won't argue if she puts the "finishing touches" on what the cleaner may have missed. If you hire someone efficient, there won't be a lot left for her to do, and she won't be exhausted.

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Troy," takes it as a personal offense that I won't share a hotel room with him and his younger son (age 15) when we go out of town to see his older son play college sports. Troy wants me to go to all of the games, but I have said I will only go when it's the 15-year-old's weekend to be at his mom's (Troy's two sons have different mothers).

I am extremely uncomfortable sharing the same hotel room, and Troy refuses to get separate rooms. Do you agree that I'm unreasonable?

"BAD SPORT" IN OHIO

DEAR "BAD SPORT": No, I do not. You should not be talked into doing anything that makes you uncomfortable, so stick to your guns.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



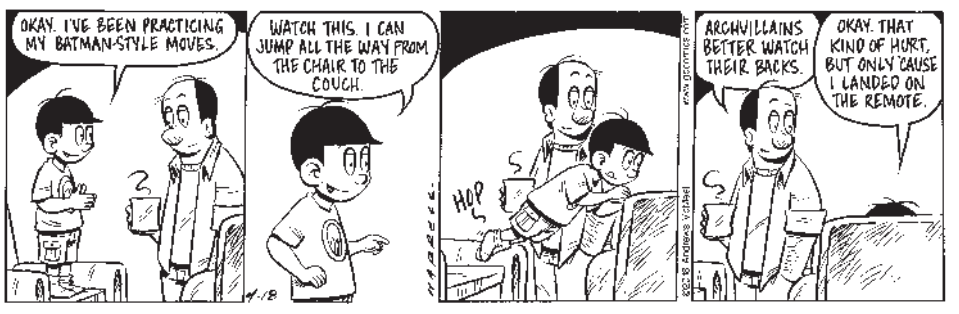
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



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By Bryan Basset



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By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Eyebrow shape
5 Society newbie
8 Melville captain
12 Ashen
13 Under the weather
14 Prom rental
15 "I" trouble?
17 Footnote abbr.
18 Alpine skiing event
19 Cure
21 Pen tip
22 Always
23 Greek H
26 Apply cream
28 Pester
31 Gentle soul
33 Boy king
35 Grow weary
36 Luminaries
38 Refusals
40 Six-pack muscles
41 Kind of suit
43 Discoverer's call
45 — -Doo (cartoon dog)
47 Behold
51 Poker holding
52 Inability to sleep
54 Buffalo's lake
55 Born abroad?
56 Mani counterpart
57 Out of play
58 Inherited
59 Make well

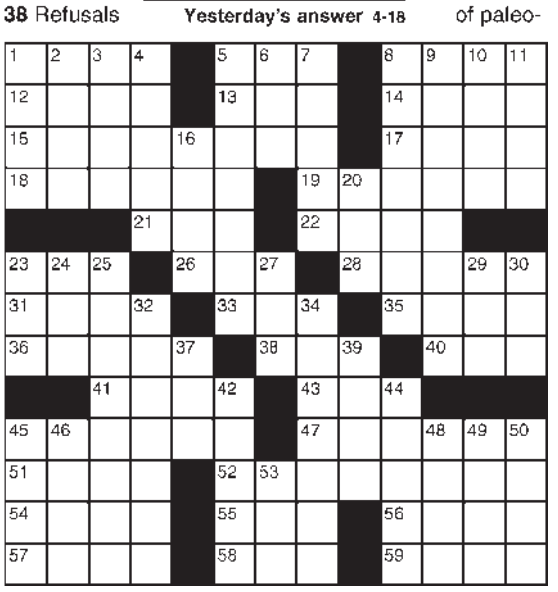
DOWN

1 Tarzan's clique
2 Prego rival
3 Hoofbeat sound
4 Macho types
5 Nitwit
6 Peyton's brother
7 Trumpet noise
8 Food
9 Ireland, in poems
10 During
11 Physique
16 Bone-dry
20 Actress Mendes
23 Golfer Ernie
24 Make lace
25 Vast rainforest region
27 Chignon
29 Sphere
30 Thumbs-up
32 Moped
34 Handyman's collection
37 Cry
39 "Scram!"
42 Evening (up)
44 Pizzazz
45 Molt
46 Give a hoot
48 Leg joint
49 Verdi opera
50 Shadow
53 Opposite of paleo-

Solution time: 23 mins.

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P	A	N	G		T	D			B	E	S	T

Yesterday's answer 4-18



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: America Ferrera, 34; Melissa Joan Hart, 42; Conan O'Brien, 55; Jane Leeves, 57.

Happy Birthday: Don't overlook an opportunity because you are sidetracked by what others are doing. Look beyond the moment and contemplate the possibilities that can be yours if you formulate a plan and work diligently to reach your goal. Don't let the past weigh you down or hold you back. It's what you do now that will build a brighter future. Your numbers are 1, 5, 13, 22, 29, 33, 45.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Take hold of whatever situation you face. Stand up on your own behalf, but do so diplomatically. The way you handle situations at work and at home will determine whether you get what you want. Patience will be required. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* You have plenty of options. It's up to you to bring about positive change. Make suggestions and follow through with your plans. Once you get started, it won't be as difficult as you think. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Express sensitivity when helping others. Impatience will not help you get things done faster or be conducive to making friends. Chill out with people who share your interests. Getting along will promote popularity, more opportunities and lasting results. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Keep your emotions hidden. Observation will help you get a better handle on what everyone around you is doing and how best to make the most of whatever situation you face. Romance and physical improvements are favored. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* If someone tries to meddle in your affairs, back away and do your own thing. Use intelligence to sort through any uncertainty you face. Sign up for a course or event that will encourage you to grow emotionally and spiritually. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Keep your emotions out of any conversation that can influence your reputation or personal status. It's important to stick to the truth and offer to participate only in projects or events that serve a purpose. A physical improvement will result in compliments. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* You will be offered valuable information if you get along with your peers. A business meeting or open discussion with a close friend or relative will help to clear up any misconception you might have regarding what's expected of you. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* A joint venture, trust or executive position you hold for someone else should be looked over closely. Go through proper channels, but don't hesitate to use unusual means to take care of family business. Physical changes will lift your spirits. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Make your home nice and cozy. Having a safe space where you can relax and enjoy life's little pleasures will also encourage you to make positive changes to the way you handle responsibilities and work-related matters. Rethink your long-term goals. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Put more effort into personal grooming and important relationships. Fixing up your space or taking part in events that are conducive to making friends or expanding your interests will also improve your life and lead to future opportunities. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* What appears to be an opportunity may be a trap. Don't make assumptions or jump into something without knowing enough about the people involved. Get your facts and figures straight before you decide to commit to someone or something. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Make a point to participate in activities and events that look interesting and offer you insight or opportunities that will benefit you financially. Romance should be a priority, and efforts to improve an important relationship will enhance your personal life. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are bold, progressive and enthusiastic. You are motivated and sociable.

(To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.)

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

					8	3	9	
				9				
	4	7	5		6	2	1	
2	5			7			4	1
4								7
1								3
3								6
	2						5	
		8	4	5	1	7		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	1	8	2	5	4	7	9	3
2	4	9	6	7	3	5	1	8
5	7	3	8	1	9	6	2	4
4	8	5	7	2	1	9	3	6
1	3	6	5	9	8	2	4	7
9	2	7	3	4	6	1	8	5
3	5	2	9	8	7	4	6	1
8	9	1	4	6	5	3	7	2
7	6	4	1	3	2	8	5	9

Difficulty Level ★★ 4/17

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ONE DAY, I WILL HIT IT BIG! **Solution: 11 letters**

E	U	N	E	V	E	R	H	C	T	A	R	C	S	M
O	S	O	N	E	K	C	U	L	L	L	E	S	T	O
N	D	W	G	I	B	D	N	A	R	G	Z	E	R	N
I	E	N	P	N	E	O	G	A	M	E	I	T	A	E
S	S	Y	A	Y	I	O	T	C	H	A	R	I	T	Y
A	N	S	R	S	E	B	T	T	D	C	P	M	E	T
C	O	D	E	E	U	L	S	C	O	L	T	B	G	I
R	I	N	E	W	T	O	L	R	A	L	O	U	Y	L
O	L	T	A	E	P	T	H	A	E	T	T	S	Y	I
S	L	E	E	E	K	P	O	T	B	B	C	O	L	B
S	I	B	L	K	M	I	A	L	C	R	M	I	H	A
W	M	L	U	L	C	T	A	X	E	S	E	U	T	B
O	O	E	S	Y	S	I	R	E	N	N	I	W	N	O
R	S	C	I	T	S	I	T	A	T	S	D	D	O	R
D	E	R	D	N	U	H	S	A	C	S	S	A	M	P

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App, Bet, Big, Bingo, Buy, Casino, Chance, Charity, Claim, Code, Crossword, Game, Grand, Hot Lotto, Hundred, Keno, Lottery, Luck, Mass Cash, Millions, Money, Monthly, New, Numbers, Odds, Powerball, Prize, Probability, Revenue, Roll, Scratch, Sell, Sold, State, Statistics, Strategy, Submit, Taxes, Thousand, Ticket, Tic Tac Toe, Weekly, Winner, Yell

Yesterday's Answer: Refillable

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SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 11, 2018 TIME: 10:00 A.M

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/S/ CLAUDIO K. NORITA
COMMISSIONER, DFEMSA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
ITB NO.: ITB18-CCC-079 (1-40)

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 02, 2018 TIME: 9:00 A.M.

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Didi hits 2 HRs as Yanks romp past Marlins



AP
New York Yankees' Didi Gregorius is congratulated by teammates in the dugout after scoring against the Miami Marlins during the third inning of a baseball game, Monday, April 16, 2018, in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Didi Gregorius homered twice for the second time this season, Gary Sanchez had three hits and three RBI, and the New York Yankees romped to a 12-1 victory over Derek Jeter's Miami Marlins on Monday night.

The only Yankees bopper who didn't join the hit parade was Giancarlo Stanton, who went hitless and got booed again by the hometown fans in his first game against his former team.

Aaron Judge became the fastest major leaguer to hit 60 career homers, and Gregorius finished with three RBI. New York scored in each of the first five innings and built an 11-0 lead for Luis Severino (3-1), who allowed one hit in six scoreless innings and struck out eight.

Judge hit his fourth home run this season and reached 60 in 197 games, five fewer than Mark McGwire.

Jeter did not attend the game, the first between the teams since the former Yankees captain became Marlins CEO last October.

Nationals 8, Mets 6

In Washington, Bryce Harper hit a startling, broken-bat homer early, then grounded a key single during a six-run surge in the eighth inning that sent Washington past New York.

The Nationals rallied against five pitchers in their big burst, winning for just the fourth time in 13 games. The Mets had been off to the best start in franchise history behind the top bullpen in the majors before collapsing.

Trailing 6-1, Washington combined five hits, three walks and a hit batter to take the lead.

Dodgers 10, Padres 3

In San Diego, Yasmani Grandal hit a grand slam, Matt Kemp had a three-run homer and Hyun-Jin Ryu (2-0) struck out nine in six strong innings.

Grandal, acquired from San Diego in a trade for Kemp in December 2014, hit his third career slam with two outs in the ninth off Kazuhisa Makita.

Kemp drove the first pitch he saw from lefty Robbie Erlin (0-2) to left-center to highlight the third inning, which was a mess for the Padres.

Rays 8, Rangers 4

In St. Petersburg, Mallex Smith had four hits and Blake Snell struck out nine to help Tampa Bay stop a four-game losing streak.

Smith bunted for a single against Martin Perez (1-2) in a four-run second inning that gave the Rays a 5-0 lead. He doubled and scored in the third on his way to a second four-hit game in eight days.

Snell (2-1) gave up one run and five hits in 6 1/3 innings.

Rockies 6, Pirates 2

In Pittsburgh, Trevor Story drilled a three-run home run, German Marquez pitched six effective innings and Colorado kept its road surge going.

Story bounced back from a miserable series in Washington by going 2 for 3 and driving in three runs, all of them coming when he sent a pitch from Steven Brault (2-1) into the bleachers in left field with one out in the fourth at frigid and blustery PNC Park to break open a close game.

Mariners 2, Astros 1

In Seattle, James Paxton delivered six strong innings, Nelson Cruz took Dallas Keuchel deep and Seattle ended a six-game skid against Houston.

Paxton (1-1) allowed a leadoff homer to George Springer in the first inning but was solid after that, striking out seven over six innings.

Nelson Cruz hit his third home run in five games with his tying solo blast off Keuchel (0-3) with two outs in the fourth. Dee Gordon's RBI double made it 2-1 in the sixth, putting Paxton in line for the win.

Braves 2, Phillies 1

In Atlanta, Julio Teheran outpitched Aaron Nola for a rare night of success at SunTrust Park and Atlanta snapped Philadelphia's six-game winning streak.

Teheran (1-1) allowed one run, five hits and three walks with nine strikeouts in six innings. He began the night 3-10 with a 6.20 ERA and 21 homers allowed in 19 starts at the Braves' second-year stadium, but Teheran kept the Phillies guessing with a tough slider.

Atlanta became the last team in the majors to record a save as closer Arodys Vizcaino ended it on Carlos Santana's groundout.

Reds 10, Brewers 4

In Milwaukee, Billy Hamilton drove in three runs and Cincinnati ended an eight-game losing streak.

The Reds won for just the third time in 16 games this season. Cincinnati is tied with Kansas City for the fewest wins in the majors. Joey Votto had an RBI double for his first extra-base hit of the season.

Cincinnati starter Luis Castillo (1-2) shut out the Brewers for six innings before allowing four runs in the seventh.

Athletics 8, White Sox 1

In Oakland, Daniel Mengden carried a shutout into the ninth inning in his best start of the season and Oakland won before another sparse crowd at the Coliseum.

Matt Olson homered, Jed Lowrie drove in three runs and Stephen Piscotty had two hits and an RBI for the A's. Oakland has won consecutive games for the first time this season.

Mengden (2-2) had allowed three earned runs or more in each of his first three starts but was dominant against Chicago.

Euro leagues oppose FIFA plan for 48-team 2022 World Cup

GENEVA (AP)—Top European leagues are set to oppose FIFA plans for adding more teams and playing days at the 2022 World Cup.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino wants to study a 48-team tournament plan that would add 16 teams, 16 extra games and at least four days to the scheduled 28-day event kicking off in November 2022 in Qatar.

That schedule would likely take another round of weekend fixtures from the English Premier League, Spain's La Liga and others which already must shut down in mid-season.

"We are not prepared to make any changes on the calendar for expanding the 2022 World Cup." Lars-Christer Olsson, CEO of the 32-member European Leagues group, said on Monday.

"We have already been flexible to allow the World Cup to be played in the (Qatari) winter and have agreed the dates," Olsson said, adding "we are not prepared for the duration of the World Cup to be any longer."

Infantino's support last week for a 48-team World Cup ahead of the agreed expansion for the 2026 edition comes more than seven years after Qatar won hosting rights from FIFA's then-executive committee.

Qatar bid to stage a 32-team, 64-game tournament in June-July 2022 despite the searing desert heat, with a pledge to develop stadium cooling technology.

In 2013, FIFA started consulting soccer officials worldwide in an 18-month process that reached an expected conclusion— to push back the schedule and play in cooler months, with a Nov. 21-Dec. 18 schedule.

That shorter, 28-day program—instead of the typical 32-day tournament—was a concession to Europe where most World Cup players are employed, and leagues wanted the shortest possible forced shutdown.

FIFA's calendar for national-team games, which mandates when clubs must release players, has a Monday, Nov. 14, 2022 call-up date for World Cup teams.

An extra four days on the 2022 World Cup program would likely mean moving up the World Cup program, and taking the Nov. 12-13 fixture dates away from European leagues.

"FIFA seems to be on an expansion drive," said Olsson, who this year joined UEFA's executive committee to represent the leagues. "It's time people thought about the players—they need time to rest. It cannot just be money deciding how football should be organized."

European clubs were the most vocal opponents of a November-December tournament before FIFA agreed on the switch to winter three years ago.

Soon after the accord, FIFA and the European Club Association representing more than 200 members signed a new working deal which guaranteed clubs worldwide a $209 million share of World Cup revenues from each of the 2018 tournament in Russia and the 2022 edition in Qatar.

Belichick won't like reason Brady is staying away from Patriots

NEW ENGLAND (AP)—Little by little, it adds up. A day of missing a team workout program is becoming a more prolonged absence. The time away is being spent with a foe of the team. Another star contemplates retirement, and won't come near the team in the meantime, as long as it's not mandatory.

And within the rigid, tightly monitored system that Bill Belichick lords over, the cracks appear.

The drama, as it always seems around the Patriots, resides in subtlety. The latest passive-aggression is a report out of ESPN that Tom Brady will not be a "regular participant" in the team's offseason program, even after he returns from his trip to Qatar. The trip, for his charity, was his reason for missing the start of the optional program, an absence that will now extend past one day.

It's not just that Brady is staying away from the team, but whom he's spending his time with. According to the report, he'll be training with Alex Guerrero, the controversial trainer behind TB12, the cult workout program that has divided perhaps the sport's best player and coach. Belichick distanced himself and his team from Guerrero last season, when he stripped Guerrero of essentially being an honorary team trainer, banning him from Patriots jets and permitting Guerrero to work out just Brady, but no other Patriot, at Gillette Stadium, according to a Boston Globe report.

And now Brady appears to be pushing back, as may be tight end Rob Gronkowski, himself a fan of Guerrero's methods, who is also not present at the start of the Patriots' workouts. Gronkowski is staying away as he contemplates his future, a surprising move for a 28-year-old in the prime of his career.

It's not the first time that Brady will miss at least a chunk of the offseason program, but it is the first time in eight years.

"We have the voluntary offseason program that starts on Monday," Belichick told reporters last week. "It will be heavily attended, but I know there are a couple players that I've talked to that have other commitments, but that's the way it always is, too. So, not really anything new there."

Wade turns back clock, lifts Heat to Game 2 win

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Dwyane Wade snuffed out one 76ers' rally by popping a 16-foot fadeaway with the shot clock ticking down. Wade made a halfhearted attempt at reaching his hand out toward a fallen defender before he scooted on his way.

Wade was up, the Sixers were down and suddenly, a series.

The Heat had to have this one)—a brooding Joel Embiid is angling for a comeback.

Wade turned in a vintage performance, scoring 28 points to end the 76ers' 17-game winning streak and lead the Miami Heat to a 113-103 Game 2 win over Philadelphia on Monday night and even the first-round playoff series.

"It's just in my DNA," Wade said. "I love the stage."

The 36-year-old flashed the form of a three-time NBA champion with the Heat, not the journeyman who bounced around the last two seasons with forgettable stints in Chicago and Cleveland.

Wade made 11 of 17 shots and put on a show in the second quarter and put it away in the fourth.

"I saw moments," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "That's what defines Dwyane Wade."

The 76ers could soon get their defining Process moment from Embiid.

The Sixers sorely needed Embiid, their All-Star center out with a broken orbital bone, to settle them as they fell in a quick a 16-point hole.

The Sixers lost for the first time since March 13 to Indiana. They won 16 straight to end the regular season and the first game of the playoffs and played their 10th straight game without Embiid.

"You need Joel Embiid," Sixers coach Brett Brown said.

Embiid went on Instagram after the game and wrote, "sick and tired of being babied."

Pack the black mask for Miami.

"Joel is a superstar. Of course we're missing him offensively, defensively," Sixers forward Dario Saric said. "He's a guy who wants to play all the time. I can't wait for Joel to come back and help us because we're a better team with him."

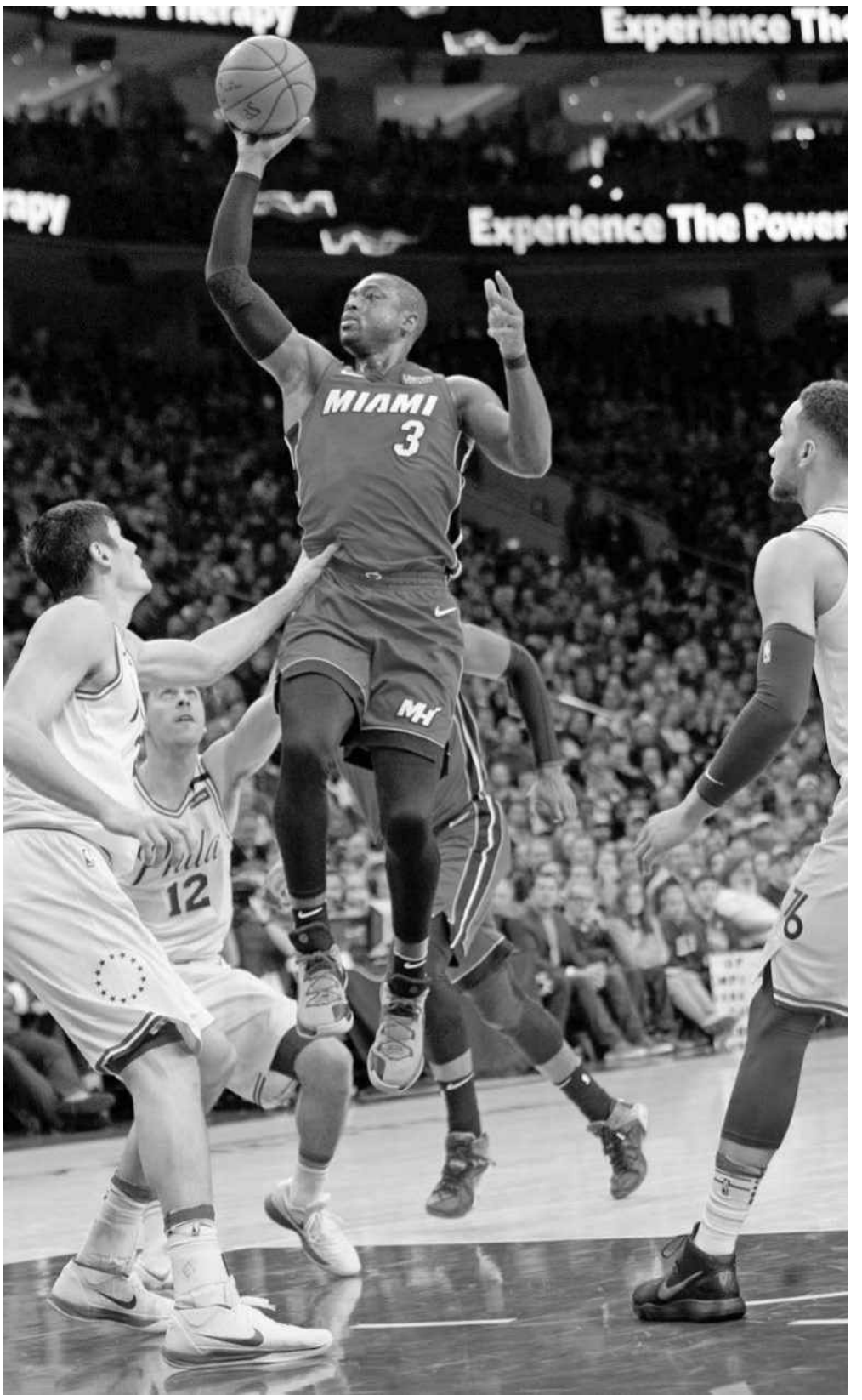
Even without Embiid, the Sixers trimmed the lead to two points late in the fourth.

Philly fans were going wild and suddenly the home-court edge that had made the Sixers unbeatable for a month seemed like it would perk the team back up for one more notch on the winning streak.

Not so fast.

Ersan Ilyasova made a tip shot to close to 98-96 but Wade answered and stripped Saric and finished on the other end with a basket that steadied the Heat.

The series shifts to Miami for Game 3 on Thursday.



AP

Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade, right, shoots with Philadelphia 76ers' T.J. McConnell, center, and Ersan Ilyasova, left, defend during the first half in Game 2 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series, Monday, April 16, 2018, in Philadelphia.

Wade's play resembled his glory days at times and he carried the Heat in a sensational second quarter that was the difference. He pump-faked his way to 15 points in the quarter)—impressive enough, even Moreso that he outscored the potent Sixers by two points.

Wade made his first seven shots of the game and passed Larry Bird for 10th on the NBA's career postseason scoring list.

"I play the game for these moments," Wade said.

After a Game 1 victory where they couldn't miss, the Sixers couldn't make a big bucket in the first half. The Sixers made a team playoff-record 18 3s in Game 1 and missed a whopping 16 of 18 3s in the first half.

The Heat slowed the game down)—exactly the kind of style where the Sixers needed Embiid in the middle)—and used a collective of defenders on Ben Simmons that rattled the rookie point guard early.

The passing-and-pushing offense that got the Sixers to the No. 3 seed in the East failed them for the first time since early March.

But there was life left in the fourth.

Saric was fouled by Wade and sank both from the line to make it 91-82 and he followed with a 3 the next time down that sent the crowd into a frenzy. Saric broke up a pass on defense that led to a Simmons dunk and suddenly 18 straight wins was within reach.

Wade contributed with baskets, assists and free throws over the final 4 minutes to close out the win.

"We played Game 1 like a regular-season game and tonight was a playoff game," Wade said.

Simmons, who had a triple-double in the opener, led the Sixers with 24 points and Saric had 23.

Warriors 116, Spurs 101

In Oakland, Stephen Curry watched another lopsided win from the bench in sheer delight, wearing a sport coat and big smile.

The steady hands of Kevin Durant and Klay Thompson certainly have made the two-time MVP's absence far less daunting for the defending champions so far in these playoffs.

Durant sparked a decisive third-quarter run on the way to 32 points, Thompson added 31 points and five assists in another superb playoff performance and the Golden State Warriors rallied in the second half to beat the San Antonio Spurs 116-101 on Monday night for a 2-0 lead in their first-round series.

As Curry remains out likely for the entire series nursing a sprained left knee, the Warriors used all the offensive power they had to take both home games in the best-of-seven series.

"No one can make up Steph's contributions individually," Thompson said. "That's got to be done as a team and even then it's hard with the way he can shoot the ball."

Thompson has found his touch after missing two weeks in March with a broken right thumb.

He followed up his brilliant 11-for-13 shooting day in a 113-92 Game 1 rout Saturday by hitting 12 of 20 shots. Durant also had six rebounds and six assists for the Warriors, who went without key backup big man David West down the stretch after he sprained his left ankle early in the fourth.

Coach Steve Kerr stuck with JaVale McGee as his starting center and the 7-footer contributed 10 points and seven rebounds as the well-rounded defending champions again showed off their remarkable depth.

LaMarcus Aldridge scored 34 for the Spurs despite facing double-teams and Rudy Gay moved into the starting lineup and scored 12 points.

Game 3 is Thursday as the series shifts to San Antonio.

Thompson managed just three shots in the first quarter and began 1 for 5. He pounded the basketball down with two hands, frustrated, midway through the second quarter. Then he found his groove.

"He hit some tough shots off one leg and you know had some opportunity bounces," Aldridge said. "That's why they are who they are. They made tough shots. KD made tough shots."

A baseline 3 with 55.9 seconds left before halftime was his first of the night and got Golden State within 49-45 before the Spurs took a 53-47 lead at intermission.

Draymond Green began 0 for 5 before his first basket on the opening possession of the fourth quarter and Durant missed his five 3-point tries in the first half then finally hit from deep early in the third.

The Warriors opened the third on a 19-5 run to take charge but this time the Spurs didn't go away.

Spurs coach Gregg Popovich went with Gay in the starting lineup for Kyle Anderson in an effort to generate more scoring—and his team still struggled to make shots.

Hornets, Magic to interview Stackhouse for coaching post

Former NBA player Jerry Stackhouse has become a hot commodity in the coaching ranks.

According to reports, the Charlotte Hornets and Orlando Magic plan to interview Stackhouse for their head coaching vacancies. Stackhouse also already has an interview lined up with the New York Knicks for their job.

The 43-year-old is the head coach of the Raptors 905, the G League affiliate of the Toronto Raptors.

The squad won the G League title two years ago before falling short in the finals this season, and Stackhouse is confident in his ability as a coach.

"This is what I do. This isn't a fluke," he said last season, per Scott Howard-Cooper of NBA.com. "I've been working at this thing for a while. A lot of people just see it now."

The 18-year NBA veteran spent time with eight different organizations in his playing career, earning two All-Star appearances with the Detroit Pistons. Now he will try to make it back to the league as a head coach and seems to have several quality opportunities.

The Magic make sense as a destination because former Raptors general manager Jeff Weltman took over as the team's president in May 2017. The organization hasn't had a winning record since 2011-12, so the bar could be low for Stackhouse if he replaces the fired Frank Vogel.

Stackhouse has the University of North Carolina connection with Michael Jordan, the owner of the Hornets. Steve Clifford was fired after five seasons with the organization, providing room for a fresh start.

It's impossible to count out the Knicks, however, who interviewed Stackhouse in 2014 "more for the position of player developmental coach," per Marc Berman of the New York Post.

Stackhouse will hope one of these interviews leads to an offer to be a head coach in 2018-19.

Elliot, Ferrer shut down opponents

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Hye Jin Elliot and JC Ferrer had a walk in the park during the opening day of the 2018 CNMI National Junior Tennis Championships as they blanked their respective opponents in the girls U14 singles event.

Elliot was pitted against Anika Camacho and cruised to a 6-0, 6-0 win last Saturday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts. Ferrer duplicated Elliot's feat later in the afternoon following an easy triumph over Eva Kim.

The girls U14 singles has a round-robin format and the division champion won't be decided until this weekend, as four more games have yet to be played. Camacho will face Kim in a make-up game this Friday at 5pm—the same schedule of the anticipated match between Elliot and Ferrer. Then this Saturday, Elliot will have her last game when she takes on Kim at 12:30pm, while at 2pm, Camacho will duel Ferrer. Friday matches were set as tournament director Lydia Tan was forced to suspend action last Sunday due to rain.

Meanwhile, the semis cast in the girls U10 singles was completed last Saturday after Irin's sister, Serin, also made it to the semifinals of the U12 singles after sweeping Emily Hoo Wang, 6-2, 6-0. Boomer Park and Yejin Son needed two sets, too, to top Seiyul Hong, 6-4, 6-1, and Dana Lee, 6-2, 6-3, respectively, and march into the Final Four. No. 1 seed Helen Kim drew a bye and got an automatic semis ticket in the division.

In the doubles competition, the Chung siblings defeated Hong and Park in the U12 age group, 6-3, 6-2. The pairs of Kim and dana Lee and Sikkel and Wang have yet to play in the event, which has a round-robin format.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Hye Jin Elliot, seen here about to return a shot to her opponent during a local tournament last year, shut down Anika Camacho in the girls U14 singles game in the 2018 CNMI National Junior Tennis Championships last Saturday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Savita Sikkel won over Anne Lee, 8-1. Sikkel joined Soarin Oh, Anna Kwon, and Irin Chung in the Final Four.

SPIDER

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the course wet and muddy, which became an extra challenge to all competitors," said Kaz Endo, who is one of the brains behind the obstacle course race.

"Expect bumps and bruises but we have a medical team on standby to administer first aid. Participants must also sign a waiver once they register. But of course, you should also exercise caution by protecting yourself. We also have general liability insurance," he added.

The Spider Web, Tarzan Falls, Fly Trap are some of the new obstacles, joining the usual Incline Bars and the dreaded Monster—a 20-plus feet wall that became a favorite in last year's KONQER Saipan.

Organizers are asking the community for volunteers that would help them set up the obstacles and assist them on race day. They would start building the obstacles a few days before the April 28 event. They would make sure that the obstacles they would construct will be safe for all the participants. They would also check the obstacles during the one-hour technical time out on race day.

Meanwhile, KONQER president Kelli Wedd said there's no word yet if last year's three-leg winner and United States Marine Corps Maj. Timothy Patrick and runner-up USMC Gunnery Sgt. Justin Park would compete here.

Patrick ruled the Saipan King of the Hill, completing the 2.16-kilometer course that has a 32-meter incline in 37:08, while Park was more than a minute behind at 38:36. Local bet Joel Phair was third at 38:53.

"It will be an open race this year since we're not sure if Maj. Tim Patrick would return to defend his title. This would give a local the chance to win this circuit," said Wedd.

After the Saipan leg, KONQER will also have stops in Guam on June 16 at the Leo Palace and in Palau on Oct. 5 and 6.

Rogolifoi wants more balanced competition next season

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Saipan Baseball League coordinator Tony Rogolifoi is looking to have a more balanced competition next season after several teams did not fare well against the top squads in this year's edition of the CNMI's premier tournament.

The Indians and the Outlaws, as of last Friday, have yet to win a game after seven matches each. The Outlaws played against Titanium on Monday night, but results of the match were unavailable at press time.

"As much as possible we want to have only eight teams, the maximum. I know they want to play, but some of the games end with the winning team leading by 15 or 20 runs," said Rogolifoi.

The Indians gave up a total of 116 runs in seven matches or an average of 16.6 per game and scored only 32 or 4.8 every outing. They posted an average losing margin of 11.8 runs. Their biggest losing margin was when the C.K. Bears blanked them, 21-0, on Feb. 19.

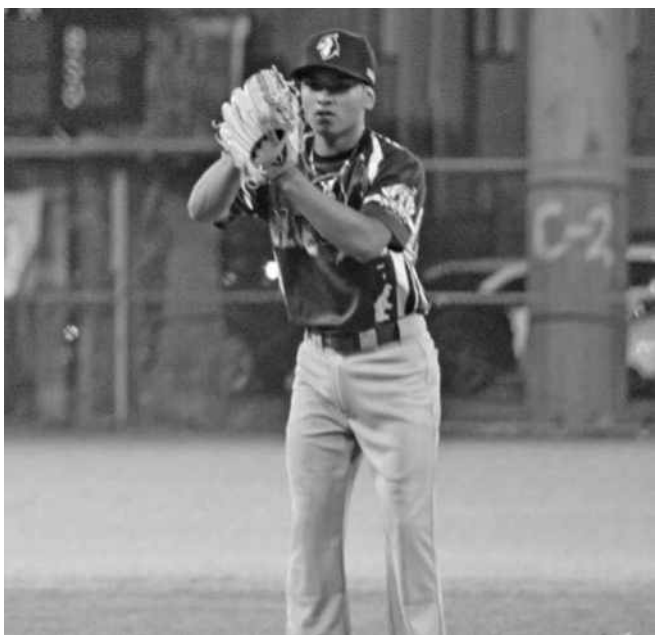
The Outlaws also had a dismal showing in the competition, allowing their first seven opponents to score a total of 135 runs or an average of 19.3 per game, while making only 35. Their average losing margin was 14.3 per game with their most lopsided loss registered against the Falcons, 4-32, on March 1.

"I'm looking at having the upper teams recruit players from the bottom squads, especially the younger ones. We want to raise the level of the game and that's our aim, especially now that there's no longer a Big League division in the Little League," Rogolifoi said.

Ten teams are playing this season with Go See Mark leading the pack at 8-1, followed by the 7-1 of the Chalan Kanoa Bears. Last year's losing finalists Falcons are at third with a 5-2 mark, while the surging Mariners are at 5-3 for fourth place. The Aces (4-2), Titanium (4-4), Blue Jays (3-6), Ballistics (2-5) complete the standings.

The defending champion Aces are fighting for survival (if the league follows the original format of having the Top 4 teams advance to the playoffs). They were in a must win situation in their game against the Mariners last night. After their duel versus the Mariners, the Aces will also look for another win in their rescheduled match against the Ballistics on Friday to grab a postseason ticket.

JON PEREZ



The Blue Jays' Noel Cabrera makes eye contact with their catcher before pitching during their game against GSM in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

YOUNG

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With the Rollers failing to find their targets in the opening 20 minutes of play, the Young Warriors established a 22-6 halftime advantage. Ian Norita led the Young Warriors' charge early in the game, as he knocked in 9 points in the first half. Five other NSA players scored in the opening frame, while only Gerald Beronio and Mark Laitan made field goals for the struggling NMI Rollers. Beronio drilled the Rollers' first basket, while Laitan nailed a triple, and Rexson Calage split his charities to account for the team's dismal production.

The Rollers continued to bleed for points in the second half, while the Young Warriors did a better job scoring and spreading the wealth, as the latter's coaches shuffled their players in the final frame. Nine Young Warriors players ended up gracing the squad's box scores, while only four hit the board for the Rollers.

Norita paced the Young Warriors with his 15 points, while four of his teammates contributed at least 4 markers each. Calage was the lone Rollers player to make more than one field goal in their loss.

Meanwhile, the 670 Sonics XVII outclassed the NMI Rollers, 47-39, in the boys U18 division match last Monday.

Jehp Ejercito, Paulo Cadag, and Christian Bravo teamed up in lifting the 670 Sonics XVII to the 8-point winning margin. Ejercito finished in twin digits with his 10 points, while Cadag and Bravo chipped in 8 apiece. J.P. Cruz and Devon Pangelinan top-scored for the NMI Rollers, as they tallied 13 each.

Boys U15 Game

Warriors 46 — Norita 15, Jones 6, Igitol 6, Serrano 4, Riungel 4, Teigita 3, Cruz 2, Aldan 2, Daikichiy 2.

NMI Rollers 17 — Calage 8, Beronio 4, Laitan 3, D. Pangelinan 2.

Scoring by halves: 22-6, 46-17.

Boys U18 Game

670 Sonics XVII 47 — Ejercito 10, Cadag 8, Bravo 8, Bartolo 4, Ben 3, Ferrari 2, Ibanez 2, Sabangan 2, Linaogo 2, Kim 2.

NMI Rollers 39 — D. Pangelinan 13, Cruz 13, Agulto 6, Wenno 4, Ballares 2, Fernandez 1.

LEGALS

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had 11 strikeouts and walked only one batter—Fabio Norita at the bottom of the third—before Gregorio Pangelinan relieved him in the sixth. Sablan moved to shortstop when Pangelinan came in.

Pangelinan, after Joel Borja got on base on a Sablan throwing error, forced Jylon Sablan to ground out to first baseman Palacios and then consecutively retired Angel Deleon Guerrero and Ethan Magofna to complete the shutout victory.

Borja had two hits, both singles, against Sablan and Pangelinan. Jylon Sablan also singled, while Magofna had a double in the game. Borja was also in scoring position twice at third base.

Meanwhile, McDonald's solo homer at the top of the second pushed the Pirates' lead to 9-0 and his team ended up crushing the Twins, 22-3.

He went 2-for-2 with a double in the first inning, aside from scoring three runs and four RBIs before walking twice after belting his second-inning homer.

Joey Dela Cruz was 3-for-4, all singles, adding two RBIs and three runs, while Cruz had three runs and an RBI after going 3-for-5. The Pirates combined for 16-for-29 or had a .551 batting average.

J.R. Suel had three RBIs, including a two-RBI double in the first inning, and made three runs, while Josh Atalig went 2-for-3 with an RBI double and four runs.

Noah Iguel pitched for two innings and was tagged with one earned run on one hit with four strikeouts and one walk, while Cruz tossed a no-hitter, fanned six, and walked three.

MINOR DIVISION
Yankees 9, Comets 4

Mish Yokota had an inside-the-park grand slam to help the Yankees establish a five-run lead. Justin Garde, Roman Teigita, and Matthew Tomokane each walked to load up the bases, setting up Yokota's grand slam.

Chris Agulto and Joshua Yowrmad walked the Yankees eight times in the two innings they played.

The Yankees were leading after two innings when the game was discontinued due to the smoke coming from a nearby fire. Only 13 minutes were left in the one-hour time limit.

Escape from Managaha

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Participants in the Escape from Managaha pose for a photo before heading to the famous island. Saipan Swim Club organized the 2.4-kilometer crossing from Managaha to Micro Beach.



Christian Villacrusis runs to the shore en route to a third place finish overall in the last April 7 race.



Lennosuke Suzuki catches his breath after finishing the race.



Jinie Thompson heads to the finish line.



Jinnosuke Suzuki runs to the shore for a second place finish behind Kento Akimaru.



Jinju Thompson smiles as she nears completion of the ocean swim race.



World Resort Saipan staff members pose for a photo after completing the crossing.



Female swimmers pose for a group photo before boarding a boat that took them to Managaha.



Didi hits 2 HRs as Yanks romp past Marlins

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Wade turns back clock, lifts Heat to Game 2 win

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Legals, Pirates trounce foes

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Kagman Little Legals continued with their march on top, while the Bridge Capital Pirates resumed their winning ways as both teams dispatched their respective opponents in the Majors division of the 2018 Saipan Little League Baseball.

Gunner Sablan homered and tossed five innings of a four-hit game to help the Little Legals blank the Natibu Sports Association Braves, 9-0, in last Saturday's game at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Sablan, with two outs at the top of the first, belted a solo shot to join teammate G-Boy Pangelinan, the Talaabwogh Falcons' Noah Aguon, and Deandrey Cruz of the Bridge Capital Pirates on the list of players who have made a homer this season. The Pirates' Charles McDonald homered for the second time during their game against the Twins last Saturday.

Sablan, who walked in the third, went 2-for-3 with a two-RBI double in the fourth, while Benji Palacios drove in three runs after going 2-for-3 at the plate. Austin Diaz had an RBI single in the fourth inning and scored on Sablan's double before striking out in the sixth.

The Little Legals pitcher also

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JON PEREZ
The Bridge Capital Pirates' Charles McDonald waits for the pitch during their game against the Twins in the Majors division of the 2018 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Spider Web and Fly Trap in KONQER Saipan

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Rain or shine, KONQER Saipan is expected to be another challenging event with organizers introducing new obstacles for the first stop in the three-leg circuit.

This year's KONQER Saipan set for April 28 will transfer to Civic Center and Kilili Beach Park after holding the inaugural event at the Gov. Eloy S. Inos Peace Park last September. The obstacle course for next weekend's race is mostly flat, but race organizers said participants could still expect a challenging and fun time.

"Rain or shine, the race will push through. Just like last year when the rain made

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JON PEREZ
KONQER chief experience officer Kaz Endo explains how the Fly Trap obstacle works during last Friday's press conference for KONQER Saipan at the Chambre Bar of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Young Warriors dominate NMI Rollers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The NSA Young Warriors pounced on the Marauders NMI Rollers, 46-17, during their boys U15 game in the 2018 Frank M. Diaz Memorial Youth League yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Young Warriors held the Rollers to two field goals in the first half en route to the lopsided win.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The NSA Young Warriors' Keith Aldan, right, fakes off the defense of two Marauders NMI Rollers players during the second half of their boys U15 division game in the Diaz youth caging yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.